Shoujo Scars
The reason why she can't smile
Volume 4
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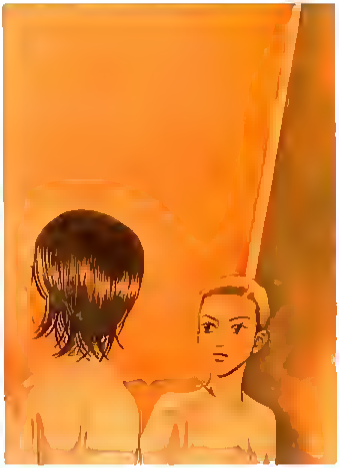
Chapter 17

花とゆめCOMICS

The Reason Why She Can't Smile

MOCHIZUKI KARIN 4



●望月花梨の本
——花とゆめコミックス——
コナコナチョウチョウ
欲望バス
Wの庭園
純粋培養閲覧図
裸足めぐり
チョコレート ダイアリィ
笑えない理由 全4巻

花とゆめ COMICS

笑えない理由〔4〕

望月花梨

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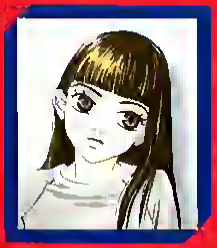

花とゆめCOMICS

▶収録作品◀

かな子の姉・あや子にかな子の誕生日までに告白すれば、かな子への想いを認めるという賭けを持掛けられた瑛士。賭けに応じたものの期限はたった1日しかなく…!? 表題作他、哀切「緑のこども」「嘘の色」も収録感動の最終巻!!

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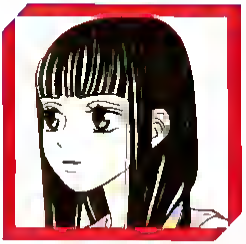

作品かいせつ

かな子を笑えなくさせた瑛士を信用していないあや子は、瑛士に賭けを持掛けた。それは、かな子の誕生日までに瑛士が告白すれば、彼の想いを認めるというものだった。しかし、期限は一日しかなく——!? 果して二人の恋の行方は? 瑛士とかな子のスクールメモリー遂に完結!!

花とゆめ

笑えない理由

1

望月花梨

2060

笑えない理由 1

望月花梨

白泉社

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Hana to Yume Comics

The Reason Why She Can't Smile

Volume 4

Mochizuki Karin

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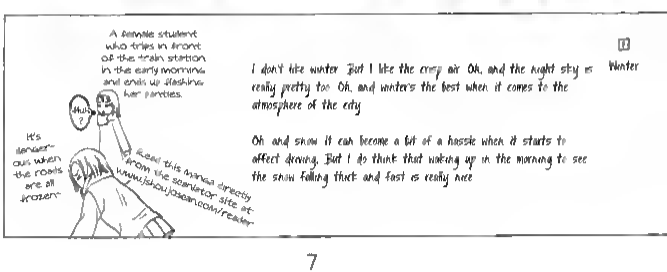
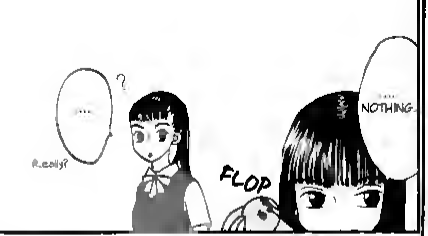
The Reason Why She Can't Smile

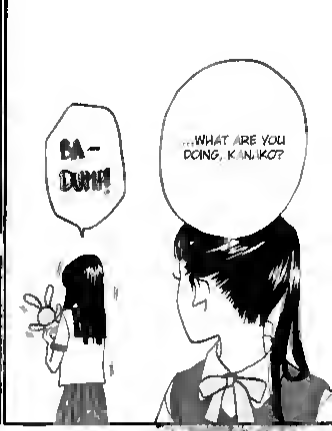
Katsuragawa Siblings' Daily Life.
They might be going to school together if their schedules overlap??
She's a bit reluctant
Sis the seats over there're open!
We can't even get close to him~
He's with his sis again!
PRICK
PRICK
PRICK
PRICK

THIS IS THE STORY OF THE SCHOOL LIFE OF AN INTROVERTED MIDDLE SCHOOLER NAMED FUSEYA KANAKO (13).
IN THE PAST, THERE WAS A PERIOD OF TIME DURING WHICH SHE COULDN'T SMILE BECAUSE SHE WAS TOLD BY HER FRIEND AKIBA EIJI-KUN THAT SHE LOOKED "FUGLY" WHEN SHE SMILED.
BUT NOW, HOWEVER, SHE UNDERSTANDS THAT THAT WAS ALL JUST A BIG MISUNDERSTANDING AND SO SHE'S FINALLY STARTED TO BE ABLE TO SMILE AGAIN.
...AND WHEN SHE'D REALIZED IT, KANAKO HAD ALREADY...
CAN I TELL THEM?
whisper whisper
nods
chuckle
...FALLEN FOR EIJI-KUN!
KYAAA—!


A female student who tries in front of the train station in the early morning and ends up flashing her panties.
It's denser out when the roads are all frozen!
I dont like winter. But I like the crisp air. Oh, and the night sky is really pretty too. Oh, and winter's the best when it comes to the atmosphere of the city.
Oh, and snow. It can become a bit of a hassle when it starts to affect driving. But I do think that waking up in the morning to see the snow falling thick and fast is really nice.
Winter



VENTRILOQUIST SKILLS.



I keep meaning to tell her,

but by the time I'd realized it, it was already June.

I began grade 8, and she started grade 10,

and two months had passed by.

My sister still has a bad impression of Eiji-kun from the time when I lost my ability to smile.
KANAKO, YOUR BIRTHDAY'S COMING UP SOON...

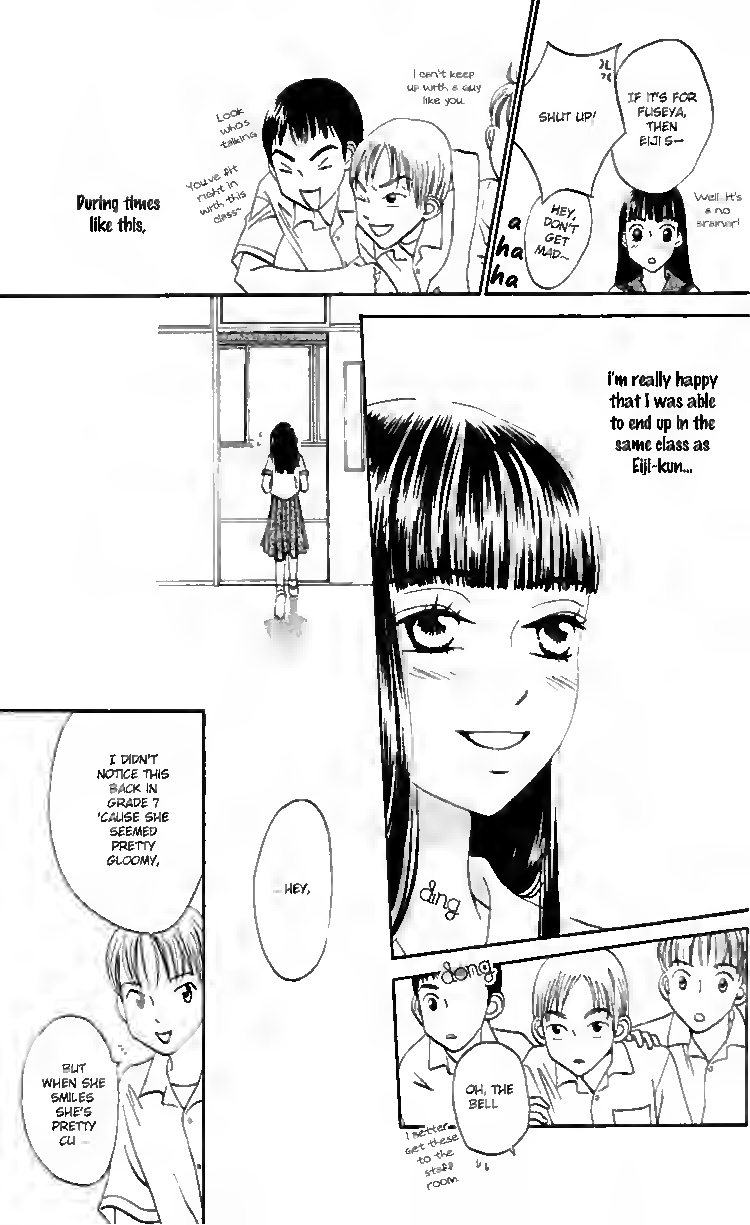
Their schools are in the same direction

WELL, SEE Y/...
EVEN IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE STUDYING IN THE SAME CLASSROOM...
...YOU CAN'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN AROUND AKIBA-KUN
I keep thinking that I should clear up that misunderstanding before I tell her how I feel...
I'M HAPPY THAT SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT ME. BUT...
I HAVE TO TELL HER! EIJI-KUN'S ACTUALLY REALLY NICE...
KANAKO.
her watchfulness has gotten even stronger...
Ever since I ended up in the same class as Eiji-kun starting in 8th grade,
noise
noise
HEY, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE "WOMAN OF THE RAINY SEASON"?

OH, I KNOW!
BUT I HEARD RUMOURS SPREAD FROM DISTRICT 2 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
I HEARD IT FROM MY BRO.
WHAT'S THAT?
WOMAN OF WHA-?
DISTRICT 1 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IF I COULD'VE AND THE OTHERS WENT TO.
BUT IT'S A GIVEN THAT IT'D RAIN AROUND THIS TIME OF YEAR
YEAH, YEAH AND THEY SAY THAT WHEN THAT HAPPENS IT'S A SURE THING THAT RAIN COMES THE NEXT DAY
AND LIKE, IN A REALLY HAPPY MANNER.
SHE WHISTLES IN TUNE WITH THE MUSIC TO SIGNAL THE END OF SCHOOL, RIGHT?
THE WOMAN APPEARS ON RAINY DAYS JUST AROUND THE TIME WHEN EVERYONE GETS OUT OF SCHOOL.
What are you on about?
HEY DON'T RAIN ON OUR PARADE
Splish splash
Splicker
FOR REAL?!
THEN IT'S SOMEONE FROM OUR SCHOOL?!
Rattle
OH AND I HEARD THE GIRL WEARS OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM!
SO WHAT, IS SHE IN THE SAME LEAGUE AS THE SPLIT MOUTH WOMAN?
A HA HA HA
WHO'S THIS "WOMAN OF THE RAINY SEASON" ANYWAY -
UM..
I'D LIKE TO COLLECT THE LANGUAGE NOTEBOOKS
Rattle
Don't Whistle
A HA HA HA
Rattle
Seriously?!
IS THERE ANYONE THAT ACTUALLY HAD THAT HAPPEN TO THEM THOUGH?
OH AND I HEARD SHE SHOOTS AN UMBRELLA RIGHT THROUGH YOUR HEART IF YOUR EYES MEET.
HA HA
A HA HA
OH? I THOUGHT SHE'D KIDNAP YOU?
THEY ARE JUST RU-MORS
WELL, AT ANY RATE IT'S TRUE THAT THAT PERSON'S BEING TREATED LIKE SOME MONSTER, AND ALL THE KIDS ARE SCARED OF HER!
Rumors spread like wildfire

BE QUIET
I BET THEY ADDED A WHOLE BUNCH OF STUFF TO THE STORY~
No duh!
BUT I HEARD SHE'S REALLY UGLY!
Noise
BRATS THINK OF THE DUMBEST THINGS!
I HEARD THEY'VE STARTED TO SAY THEY'RE GONNA GANG TOGETHER TO GET RID OF HER
Noise
FOR REAL?!
IT'S NO USE
THEY'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME
A HA HA HA
HERE
HERE
rustle
rustle
THANKS
silent...
Uhhh...?
Say it
Noise
Noise
Oh, shit! I forgot mine
Is it due today?
Oh
PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR LANGUAGE NOTEBOOKS BY THE END OF LUNCH!
Right now she's in charge of this subject

ba-dump
I have a feeling
AH
although he was kind from the beginning...
IT'S NOTHING
THANK YOU JUST NOW
that he's become really kind lately...
But I have a feeling his atmosphere's softened from before...
YOU SHOULD SPEAK IN A LOUDER VOICE
WITH A SINGLE WORD!
YOU GOT THE CLASS TO SHUT UP
whistle
whistle
YOU'RE SO COOL, AKIBA-KUN!
THUD
OTHER-WISE NO ONE CAN...


During times like this,
Look who's talking
You've hit right in with this class
I can't keep up with a guy like you
a ha ha
SHUT UP!
IF IT'S FOR FUSEYA, THEN EIJI IS—
HEY, DON'T GET MAD—
Well it's a no brainer!
I'm really happy that I was able to end up in the same class as Eiji-kun...
ding
dong
OH, THE BELL
I better get these to the staff room
HEY,
I DIDN'T NOTICE THIS BACK IN GRADE 7 'CAUSE SHE SEEMED PRETTY GLOOMY,
BUT WHEN SHE SMILES SHE'S PRETTY CU—

He can hear them.
SO WHAT, HE'S GOING IN FOR THE KILL?
chuckles
YEAH, HE DOESN'T EVEN TRY TO DENY IT ANYMORE.
IT'S SO OBVIOUS WHO EIJI LIKES
TALK ABOUT SCARY!
WHOA AA
GLARES
Now that we've come to an understanding,
the goal's within sight...
but..
AHAHAHA!
Until now, I had the fact that I was the one who was responsible for making Kanako unable to smile weigh on my conscience. I wasn't able to make any aggressive moves because of it —
That's right.
Instead I became really passive because I was afraid she'd hate me more!
Really?
But since that day, that's all been erased!
Booya!
Gripe
"I CAN'T SMILE IF YOU'RE NOT THERE!"
That day

TALK ABOUT DOING A ROUNDABOUT~
HE CAME OVER TO HANG OUT WITH KUMIKO.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING... YOU SLOW-POKE
SO WHAT, YOU STILL HAVEN'T CONFESSED YOUR FEELINGS TO AYAKO'S SIS?
Sir..I guess you've gotten over him?
YEAH, NO KIDDING.
AND DON'T EVEN TRY TO SAY STUFF LIKE.."IT HASN'T COME TO THAT STAGE YET"~
A ha ha ha
IT'S HER SISTER!
GUESS
You know why
WHAT'S HOLDING YOU BACK THIS TIME?
SO WHAT?
REALLY?!
DO TELL!
You even got into an argument
AND MAY I REMIND YOU! YOU WEREN'T EXACTLY MR. NICE GUY TO AYAKO THAT DAY EITHER.
YEAH, YEAH!
...YEAH. BUT YOU'VE ALREADY COME SO FAR. WHY DON'T YOU JUST PUSH PAST THAT?
Oooh, I get it.
It's too much!
SHE TALKED MY EAR OFF ABOUT HOW SHE STILL HASN'T ACCEPTED ME. AND THAT I SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM KANAKO!
EVEN AFTER THE GRAD CEREMONY,
Whoa~ Eiji you're so cool!
LIKE THIS!
RATHER THAN HAVE HER HEAR IT FROM SOMEBODY ELSE!"
"I WANT TO BE THE ONE TO TELL HER HOW I FEEL

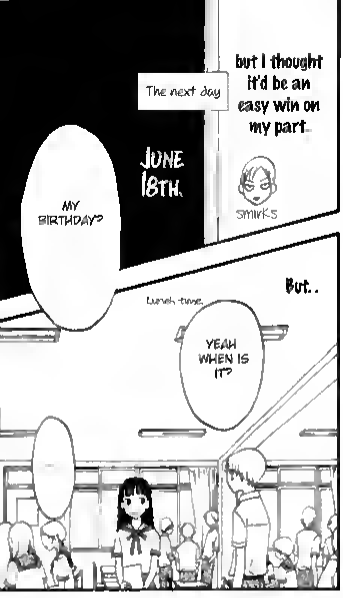
I...
CAN'T SAY THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHERE SHE'S COMING FROM
LIKE, HOW SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT KANAKO...
WHEN I FIRST FOUND OUT THAT KANAKO COULDN'T SMILE ANYMORE I WAS REALLY SHOCKED...
YEAH— BEFORE HE USED TO BE SUCH A BRAT
—TO THINK EIJI THINKS ABOUT HOW OTHERS FEEL— HE REALLY HAS GROWN, DON'T YOU THINK?
—SHUT UP!
yeah.
I'll say that and no more
SO IN OTHER WORDS— YOU DON'T WANT TO PUSH THE CASE UNTIL SHE AT LEAST STARTS TO ACCEPT YOU?
yeah.
Me too.
I DON'T HAVE ANY
HUH?
You mean like love interests?
I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING WORTH TELLING
For real?
HE'S ACTUALLY REALLY POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS
It pisses me OFF
YOU GUYS ARE ALWAYS GOING ON ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE, BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WHAT ABOUT YOU GUYS THEN, HUH?!
MAYBE HE HASN'T SAID IT YET BECAUSE WHEN I CONFESSED TO HIM IT CHANGED HIM EMOTIONALLY...

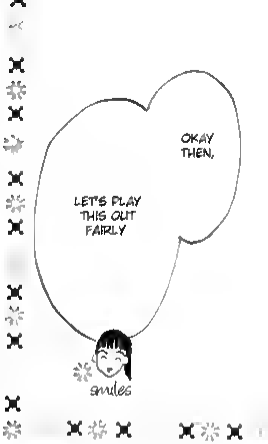
MORAL OF THE STORY:
TAKE OTHER'S FEELINGS INTO CONSIDERATION BEFORE ACTING.
The next day...
WHAT?! IT'S MY FIRST TIME HEARING THAT!
AHAHAHA, FOR REAL?!
WASN'T THERE A TIME WHEN YOU PLAYED LOVE SONGS ON THE GUITAR EVERY MORNING IN FRONT OF THE SHOE LOCKER OF THE GIRL YOU LIKED?
OH, BUT, HIROO, BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL~
He'd already transferred to a different school by then.
SO, WHAT HAPPENED?!
It's become a lesson!
...
.....
...POOR GUY, SHE SEEMED TO REALLY HATE IT...

SMACK
...ARE YOU WAITING FOR KANAKO?
...IF YOU ARE SHE'S ALREADY-
WHOA!
NOPE.
TODAY I CAME BECAUSE I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU.
DID YOU JUST FINISH YOUR CLUB ACTIVITIES?
DO YOU HAVE SOME TIME RIGHT NOW?
LONG TIME NO SEE...

THAT'S WHEN I REMEMBERED
I WAS TALKING ON THE PHONE WITH REIKO YESTERDAY
HUH
AND SHE TOLD ME ALL THE GOOD THINGS ABOUT YOU
I THINK THE OTHER DAY, IT WAS A BIT TOO ONE-SIDED ON MY PART
THAT YOU WERE THE ONE WHO CLEARED UP KANAKO'S MIS-UNDERSTANDINGS AND MADE IT SO THAT SHE STARTED SMILING AGAIN
IT MADE ME REALIZE THAT YOU'VE SHOWN YOUR SINCERITY IN YOUR OWN WAY
Since I was the one who rattled you out, I do feel a bit responsible.
I SHOULD'VE TAKEN THAT INTO ACCOUNT
THAT'S WHEN THE THOUGHT STRUCK ME
WILL YOU ACCE-
THEN
THAT I SHOULD SET UP A BET RATHER THAN TO JUST MINDLESSLY BE AGAINST IT

A BET?!
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO TELL HER HOW YOU FELT, RIGHT?
THEN WHY DON'T YOU TRY DOING THAT?
HUH?
THAT'S RIGHT.
IF YOU CAN'T DO THAT, THEN YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP ON HER.
SO YOU WANT ME TO CONFESS TO KANAKO?
SO HOW ABOUT IT?
ARE WE ON?
SHOW ME THAT YOU REALLY DO LIKE KANAKO,
I HAVE A DEADLINE TOO
LET'S SEE...HOW ABOUT WE MAKE IT KANAKO'S BIRTHDAY?
IF THE DEADLINE PASSES WITHOUT YOU DOING IT, THEN YOU'RE AUTOMATICALLY OUT.
WHEN'S HER BIRTHDAY AGAIN...?
YEAH!
AND MAKE ME ACCEPT YOU...

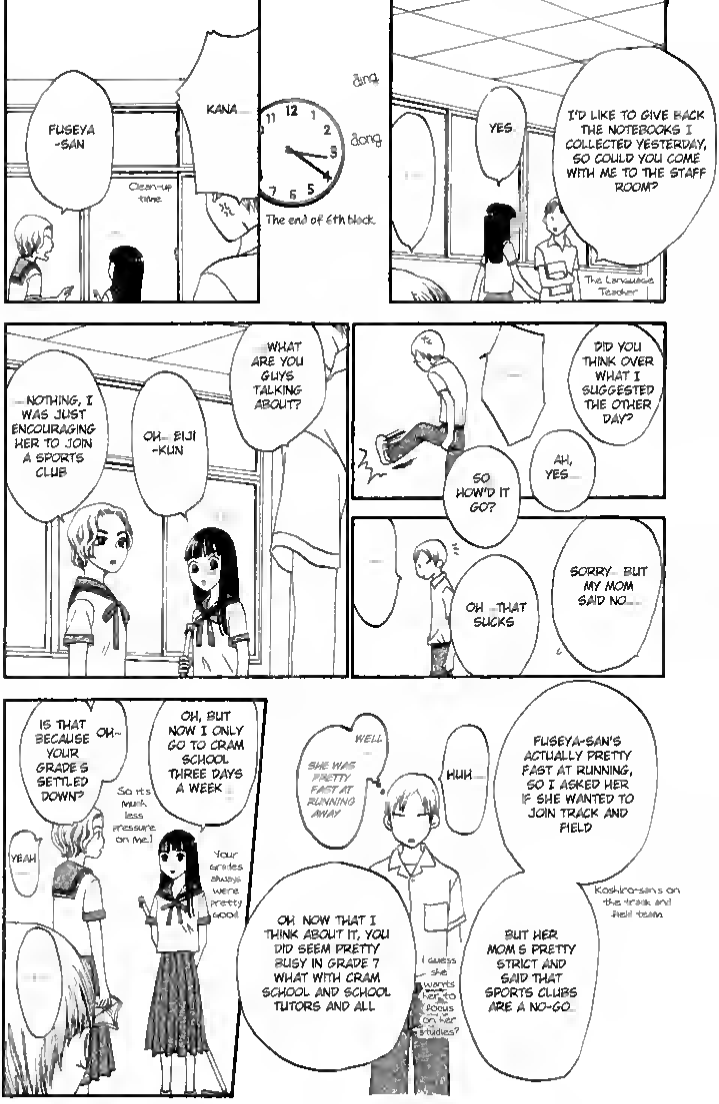

but I thought it'd be an easy win on my part.
The next day
JUNE 18TH.
smirks
MY BIRTHDAY?
But..
lunch-time.
YEAH WHEN IS IT?
SO WHEN IS IT?


OKAY THEN,
LET'S PLAY THIS OUT FAIRLY
smiles

Sorry to say,

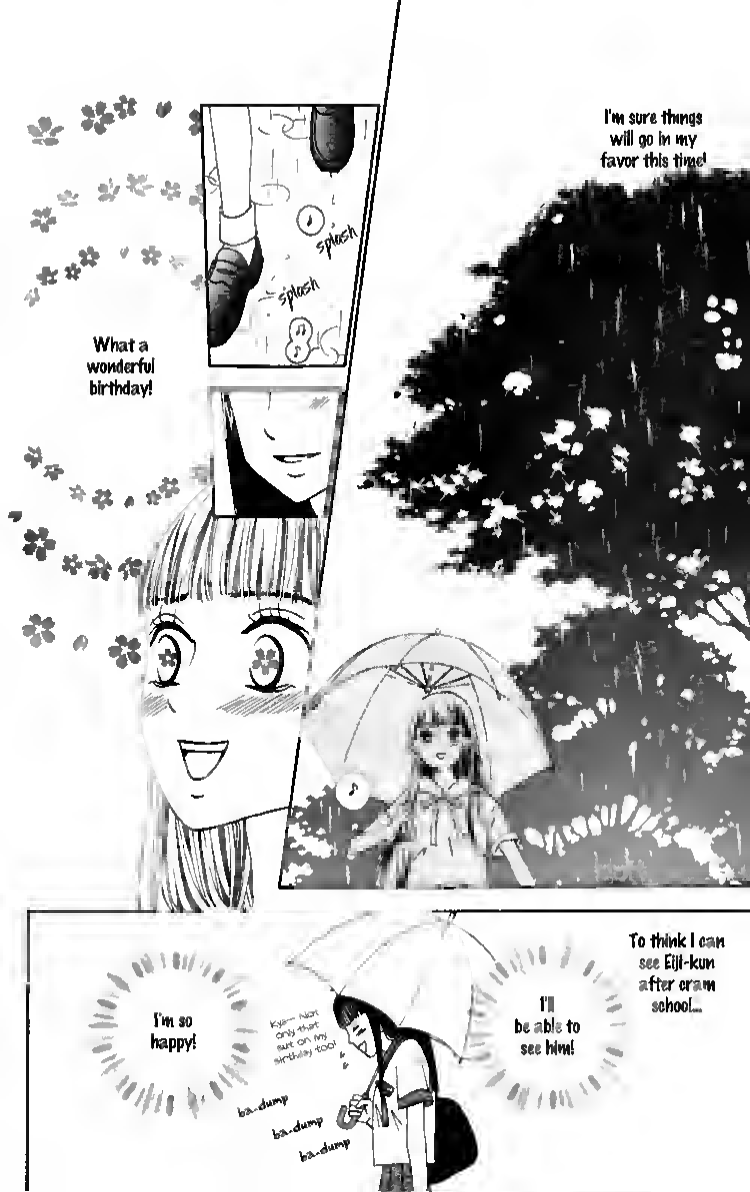
!!
TODAY?!
IT'S TODAY

—It pissed me off.
"LET'S PLAY THIS OUT FAIRLY."
WHAT PART OF THIS IS FAIR?!
Talk about greedy!
THEN WHAT THE DEADLINE'S TODAY?!
AH, OKAY
FUSEYA-SAN—OUR GROUP'S IN CHARGE OF SETTING UP FOR P.E. NEXT BLOCK—
Let's go!
See you.
WELL, BYE
ding
The end of 5th block.
dong
FUSEYA -SAN
KANA-KO!
KANAKO!
If things have to come down to this, then I'll make it happen no matter what!

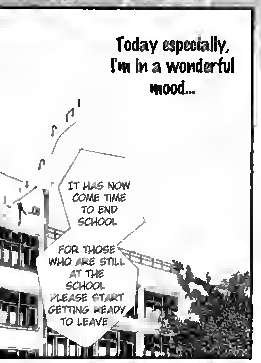

FUSEYA -SAN
KANA...
Clean-up time
dong
dong
The end of 6th block
YES
I'D LIKE TO GIVE BACK THE NOTEBOOKS I COLLECTED YESTERDAY, SO COULD YOU COME WITH ME TO THE STAFF ROOM?
The Language Teacher
...WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
OH... EIJI -KUN
...NOTHING, I WAS JUST ENCOURAGING HER TO JOIN A SPORTS CLUB
DID YOU THINK OVER WHAT I SUGGESTED THE OTHER DAY?
AH, YES...
SO HOW'D IT GO?
SORRY... BUT MY MOM SAID NO...
OH... THAT SUCKS
IS THAT BECAUSE YOUR GRADES SETTLED DOWN?
OH~
OH, BUT NOW I ONLY GO TO CRAM SCHOOL THREE DAYS A WEEK...
So it's much less pressure on me.
YEAH
Your grades always were pretty good
WELL...
SHE WAS PRETTY FAST AT RUNNING AWAY
HUH...
FUSEYA-SAN'S ACTUALLY PRETTY FAST AT RUNNING, SO I ASKED HER IF SHE WANTED TO JOIN TRACK AND FIELD
Kashiro-san's on the track and field team.
OH, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, YOU DID SEEM PRETTY BUSY IN GRADE 7 WHAT WITH CRAM SCHOOL AND SCHOOL TUTORS AND ALL
I guess she wants her to focus on her studies?
BUT HER MOM'S PRETTY STRICT AND SAID THAT SPORTS CLUBS ARE A NO-GO...

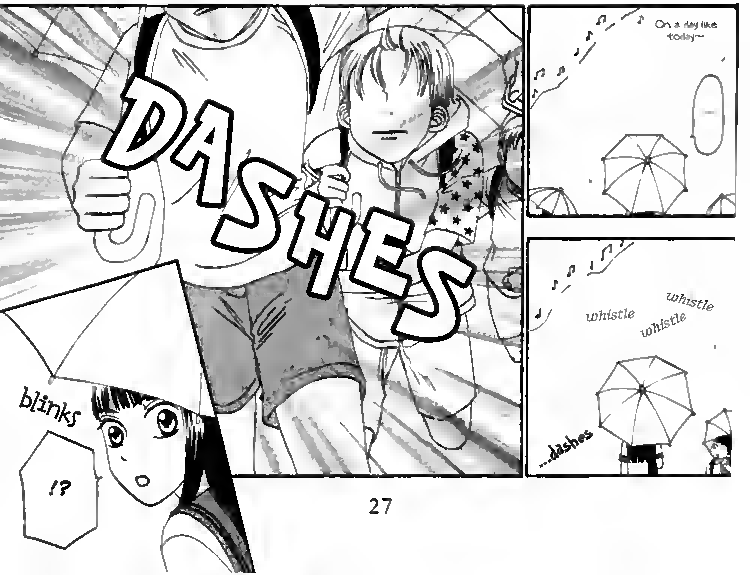
...DO YOU HAVE TO GO TODAY TOO?
YES...
EH?
COULD YOU MAKE SOME TIME FOR ME RIGHT BEFORE THEN?
TO CRAM SCHOOL
HUH...?
Well then I guess I'll be going now.
OH...
BUT MY SISTER TOLD ME THAT I SHOULD COME RIGHT BACK AFTER SCHOOL TODAY...
I'm sorry.
And this just becomes more and more unfair!
IT WON'T TAKE LONG...
BEFORE THE END OF TODAY, I
I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO TELL YOU...

I HAVE SOMETHING I HAVE TO TELL YOU!
WOULD IT BE OKAY IF IT'S AFTER CRAM SCHOOL?
HUH?
OH,
IT MIGHT BE A BIT LATE,
BUT IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU...


splash
splash
What a wonderful birthday!
I'm sure things will go in my favor this time!
To think I can see Eiji-kun after cram school...
I'll be able to see him!
Kyu— Not only that sun on my birthday too!
ba-dump
ba-dump
ba-dump
I'm so happy!

On a rainy day like this, it becomes an even funner day...
It makes me even want to break out into a whistle...
I WONDER WHAT HE WANTS TO TELL ME?


Today especially, I'm in a wonderful mood...
IT HAS NOW COME TIME TO END SCHOOL
FOR THOSE WHO ARE STILL AT THE SCHOOL PLEASE START GETTING READY TO LEAVE


DASHES
blinks
!?
On a day like today~
whistle
whistle
whistle
...dashes

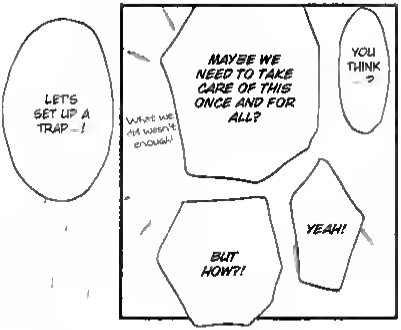
DASHES—
WE MANAGED TO LAY THE SMACKDOWN ON HER!
WE DID IT!
SPLASH
TAKE THAT!
WE STOLE THE WOMAN OF THE RAINY SEASON'S LETHAL WEAPON!
blinks
Why ?
?
My umbrella
...!
Yay—
Way to go—
Yay—
pour
WHOA,
HEY—
Why?

WHAT HAPPENED?!
YOU'RE SOAKING WET!
I FELL...
ARE YOU OKAY?!
WHAT?!
I'M FINE
YOU SHOULD TAKE A BATH!
BY THE WAY,
DID AKIBA-KUN TELL YOU ANYTHING TODAY, KANAKO?
ba dump
MAYBE I HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT SINCE IT'S PRACTICALLY THE END OF THE DAY...?
Maybe he wasn't realized it's her birthday today?
BUT I WANT HIM TO MESS UP TODAY SO THAT KANAKO CAN FINALLY CUT TIES WITH HIM
I FEEL BAD FOR AKIBA-KUN...
I want to rid the source of my worries in the future
EVIL
"...BUT, AYAKO."
shakes head
OH REALLY?
We're I'm glad

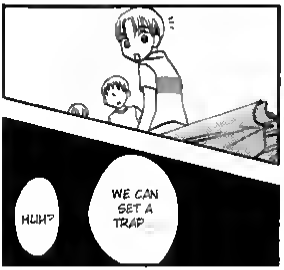
WHEN YOU GET BACK, LET'S THROW A BIRTHDAY PARTY!
WELL, I'M GOING TO CRAM SCHOOL NOW.
OH, SURE
"HE HASN'T CONFESSED HIS FEELINGS TO YOUR SISTER UNTIL NOW BECAUSE HE KNEW HOW YOU FELT ..."
EVEN THOUGH THEY CARE ABOUT EACH OTHER
"WHEN DO YOU GET OUT OF CRAM SCHOOL?"
"IF I REMEMBER RIGHT—YOUR CRAM SCHOOL'S NEAR DISTRICT 2 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RIGHT?"
"9 O'CLOCK"
"THEN I'LL BE WAITING THERE AROUND THAT TIME."
At the gates.
CLICK
SURE.
...I feel bad for not telling my sister..
I BETTER TELL HER SOON
POURRR

WELL, SHE MAY LOOK NORMAL, BUT SHE'S NOT!
HUH, REALLY?!
BUT SHE SEEMED A LOT MORE NORMAL THAN THE RUMORS MADE HER OUT TO BE!
SHE WAS SMILING WHILE SHE WAS WHISTLING!
TOMMY WAS MY FIRST TIME SEEING HER

SO THIS
IS THE WOMAN OF THE RAINY SEASON'S UMBRELLA!


LET'S SET UP A TRAP—!
MAYBE WE NEED TO TAKE CARE OF THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL?
YOU THINK ?
What we did wasn't enough!
YEAH!
BUT HOW?!

pourrr


HUH?
WE CAN SET A TRAP

I hope Kanako comes soon.

TO THE WOMAN OF THE RAINY SEASON, YOUR UMBRELLA IS AT THE BACK OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING.
Huh?
SPLASH
The rear gates.
"THE WOMAN OF THE RAINY SEASON"?
Is that me...?
AT THE BACK OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING
But why...?
DASHES
OH!
There it is!
MAYBE I SHOULD GO AND GET IT FIRST
Since it's on the way
YEAH
IF I JUST GO PAST THESE GATES
It's right nearby.
ALL RIGHTY!

SWISH
DASHES
!!
poourr
...SHE SURE IS LATE...
THE RAIN'S GETTING STRONGER...
.....

KANAKO'S REALLY LATE..
It's already past 10
pourrr
-VO
DON'T TELL ME AKIBA-KUN MANAGED TO CATCH HER?!
blink
as if she'd gotten into some sort of accident...
if that's the case, then that wouldn't be as bad
PISSED OFF
PISSED OFF
PISSED OFF
PISSED OFF
SHY

Why...?
Why hasn't she come?
"SHOW ME THAT YOU REALLY DO LIKE KANAKO, AND MAKE ME ACCEPT YOU."
"I...WANT TO BE BY YOUR SIDE!"

Shoujo Scars
The reason why she can't smile
Volume 4
Translator: Oceansportrait
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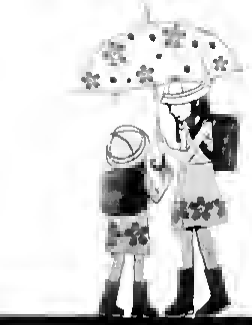
Chapter 18



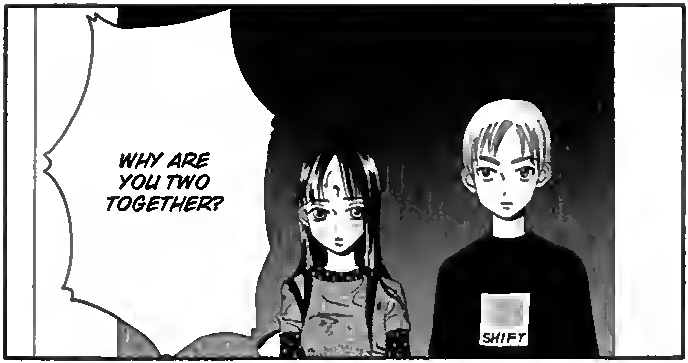
The Reason Why She Can't Smile

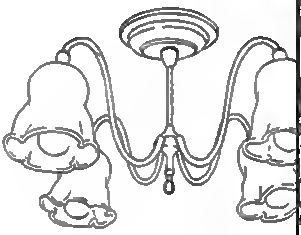
And on spring nights, I don't know why, but I feel some sort of unidentifiable absorptive power

Spring

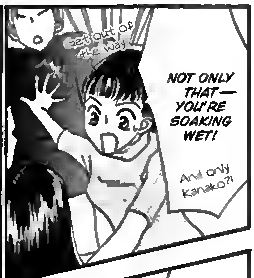
In the past, it used to be a season that'd exhaust me—but now that I have a life that is distantly related to the changes of the fiscal year for your average person—spring has become something of a kind and comfortable season

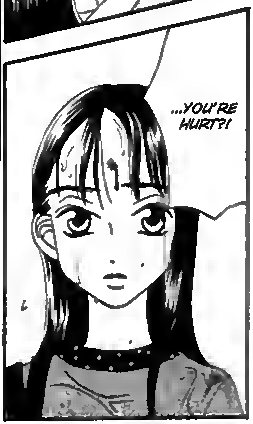
Plus flowers bloom all throughout town

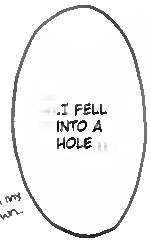

WHY ARE YOU TWO TOGETHER?
SHIFT



ONEE-CHAN
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER YOU LITTLE-
NO
YOU'VE GOT IT
ALL WRONG


GET OUT OF THE WAY
NOT ONLY THAT— YOU'RE SOAKING WET!
And only Kanako?!


...YOU'RE HURT?!


...I FELL INTO A HOLE
On my own.

Like this
Behind the court yard
THE LID WAS REMOVED, AND I DIDN'T NOTICE THAT THERE WAS A VINYL SHEET PLACED OVER IT...
A HOLE?!
YES
OR MAYBE IT WAS A MAN-HOLE...?
Smack
It's dirty
And ended like this
Forget that— Let's get you home first!
What is it that you wanted to tell me?
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D WAIT FOR ME FOR SO LONG
He ended up taking her home.
This was how
And we arrive at the present time
AND ALTHOUGH I WAS REALLY LATE, I WENT TO THE PLACE THAT I PROMISED I WOULD MEET EIJI-KUN
Forget that— what happened to you?!
I'm sorry I'm really late!
AND I THINK FOR A WHILE I HAD SOME KIND OF CONCUSSION...
I'm not sure, maybe they were doing construction?
But why would the lid be ?
AND THE WEIRD THING IS THE VINYL SHEET WAS A FLORAL PATTERNED PICNIC SHEET
AFTER AWHILE, I WOKE UP—
I'm okay I'm okay
DO you feel like throwing up?!
Do you feel sick?!
A CONCUSSION?!
HUH?!
No way!

...SO WHAT?
YOU GUYS MADE PLANS TO MEET UP?
AH...
YES...
ba-dump
I'm sorry I didn't tell you...or for causing you to worry.
I WAS THE ONE WHO PRESSED HER TO MAKE TIME FOR ME TODAY BECAUSE THERE WAS SOMETHING I WANTED TO TELL HER BY THE END OF THE DAY.
SHI
SOME-THING YOU WANTED TO SAY,
HUH?
...SO DID YOU?
NO, BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE THE CHANCE TO
IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU I'D LIKE TO DO IT RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW

...!
My! How impudent!
...SHE'S BACK!
OUR MOM!
WE WON'T HEAR THE END OF IT IF SHE CATCHES A BOY IN THE HOUSE AT THIS TIME OF HOUR!
She's an obare of a mom!
SO SHOO!
GET AWAY WHILE YOU CAN!
push
push
SHIFT
HUH?
vroom
blinks
slam
SLAM
The back door
I'M BACK
...
W-WELCOME BACK
OH...
There was close

I WOULDN'T FORGET ABOUT MY OWN DAUGHTER'S BIRTHDAY
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE ABLE TO MAKE IT BACK
YOU WERE PRETTY LATE TODAY
HUH? ISN'T SHE IN THE LIVI-
WHERE'S KANAKO?
Is she in her room?
She's not there
EIJI-KUN...
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A DRIZZLE, YOU'LL STILL GET WET.
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY COMING OUT HERE LIKE THIS?
YOU FORGOT ...
YOUR UMBRELLA...

HERE.
I'M SORRY... ABOUT EARLIER.
BUT BECAUSE OF THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE...
I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO HEAR WHAT YOU WANTED TO SAY.
YOU WENT OUT OF YOUR WAY TO SEE ME HOME...
WHAT WAS IT ANYWA-

WHAT I WANTED TO TELL YOU IS SIMPLE
I LIKE YOU.
THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO SAY...
Ishouju Scans
pour

blush
...!
I finally said it!
WELL, BYE!
AH...
WAIT!
ME, TOO!
I FEEL THE SAME WAY!
I LIKE YOU, TOO!

SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW...
POUYYY
THEN BACK

KANAKO...
YOU... LIKE AKIBA-KUN?
ONEE-CHAN...
...WAS WHAT YOU SAID JUST NOW TRUE...?
What are you doing here?
ba-dump
ba-dump
She came out to look for her.
She heard...
ba-dump
ba-dump
ba-dump
NO!
This can't be!
AH, I'M SORRY I KEPT IT A SECRET!
I'M REALLY SORRY!
I WANTED TO TELL YOU BIT-BY-BIT...
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TELL YOU FOR THE LONGEST TIME
BUT BECAUSE I'M ALWAYS CAUSING YOU TO WORRY
SHE
EVEN THOUGH I KNEW THAT AKIBA-KUN LIKED HER,
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT HOW KANAKO FELT TOWARDS AKIBA-KUN!

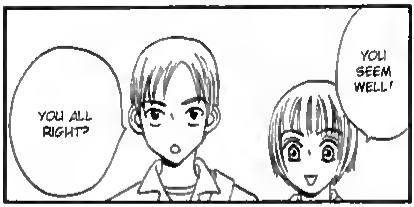
THAT LITTLE TWERP— AKIBA!
My hatred for you has gone up tenfold!
My angel Kanako ♡
I THOUGHT BOYS AND LOVE WERE A THING OF THE DISTANT FUTURE FOR HER...!
OH
THAT REMINDS ME... I LOST THE BET
he
THAT'S BECOME THE LEAST OF MY PROBLEMS THOUGH
FIRST THING'S FIRST LET'S JUST GET BACK INSIDE
OKAY
Our mom can be pretty annoying...
...THAT REMINDS ME
IT'S ME THAT TURNED THIS WHOLE THING INTO A SITUATION THAT MADE IT HARD FOR KANAKO TO TELL ME WHO SHE LIKED...
I need to repent...
I FAILED AS A BIG SISTER...
She's in shock that Kanako kept it a secret from her
BUT EVEN AFTER ALL THIS, I STILL CAN'T JUST SIMPLY GIVE IN AND ACCEPT HIM...
Ever more so [illegible] start say [illegible] start [illegible] out...

The next day.

The third Saturday | Afternoon

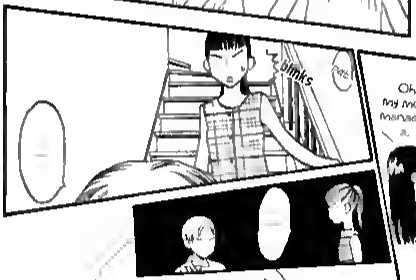
BUT THIS ISN'T THE DIRECTION TO YOUR HOUSE
HEY?
EIJI-!
Are you heading back from sports club?
SURE AM.
swish
FUSEYA WAS ABSENT TODAY, AFTER ALL
OH, I GET IT.
What's your point?
chuckle
Note: Hiroo
WANT TO RIDE ON THE BACK OF MY BIKE?
YIPEE!
...NO THANKS.
SURE
YEAH,
To visit her!
CAN I COME ALONG, TOO?
I DON'T LIKE HANGING OUT WITH HIM WHEN HE'S IN HIS REGULAR CLOTHES BECAUSE PEOPLE MISTAKE US FOR BEING A COUPLE
Yeah, whatever
We can be there in a jiffy
NO NEED TO BE SHY!
What-!

DING
DONG

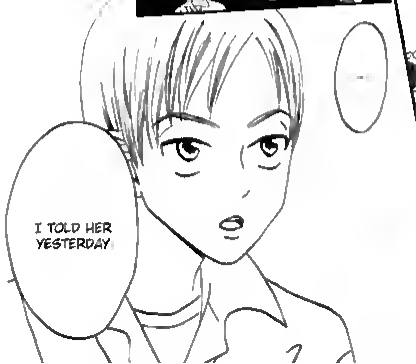

YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU SEEM WELL!

YOUR HOUSE IS SO BIG!
OH, THAT'S GOOD
BUT THEY SAID I WAS FINE!
SINCE IT WAS A HEAD INJURY I DID GO TO GET IT CHECKED
Come on in.
YES.

WOW...
EIJI-KUN! HIROO-KUN!
THANKS FOR COMING TO SEE ME...!


Sinks
Pant

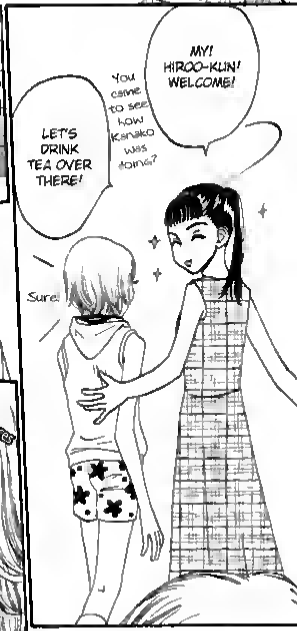
Oh, my mom menaces a.
What do your parents do?
PIE
PIE
PIE


I TOLD HER YESTERDAY

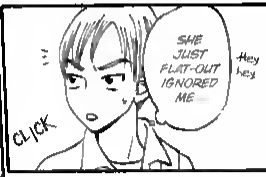
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
THEN I WIN.

I KNOW THAT.

MY, WE HAVE VISITORS?
How lively
OH, MOM.
Welcome back
MY FRIENDS CAME TO SEE HOW I WAS DOING
IS THAT RIGHT?


MY! HIROO-KUN! WELCOME!
You came to see how Kanako was doing?
LET'S DRINK TEA OVER THERE!
Sure!

pit pat
Glances
WELL, THANK YOU FOR THAT.
ARE THEY A COUPLE?


SHE JUST FLAT-OUT IGNORED ME...
Hey hey
CLICK

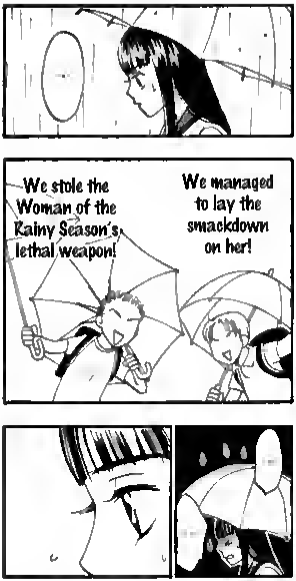
TN: Referring to Nanase Sachiyo, a Japanese talent who is the wife of a former professional baseball coach.
I WONDER IF FUSEY-I'S GONNA LOOK LIKE THAT WHEN SHE GETS OLDER...?
SHE LOOKS LIKE SACCHY
THAT'S THEIR MOM...?
SAC-CHY?
I'LL BE LEAV-ING RIGHT AWAY
I JUST CAME BACK TO GET SOME DOCU-MENTS
WHAT ARE YOU DOING BACK AT THIS TIME?
LLO
HE
I GIVE UP!
I GIVE UP!
CHOKE
?
KANAKO.
YOU HAVE AN EXAM AT CRAM SCHOOL NEXT WEEK, DON'T YOU?
OH...
BUT...
THEY JUST GOT HERE...
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD HAVE YOUR FRIENDS LEAVE SO YOU CAN START STUDYING?

The am hear everything.
Kya!
Pukkies
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THIS IS THE TIME OF YEAR YOU SHOULD PUT YOUR STUDIES AT THE HIGHEST OF PRIORITIES!
AND I CAN'T SAY I THINK HIGHLY OF YOU HAVING FRIENDS WHO ARE ALREADY DATING WHEN THEY'RE STILL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL!
What? That so say? Is that all, and so rejection? Sniff
NOT ONLY THAT BUT YOU TRIED OUT FOR A THIRD-RATE PUBLIC SCHOOL WITHOUT TELLING ME
YOU'RE NOT CHARMING AT ALL!
IT'S MY LIFE! I HAVE A RIGHT TO DECIDE WHAT I DO WITH IT!
And we're not talking about me right now!!
DON'T TALK BADLY OF MY FRIENDS!
AND MAY I SAY YOUR FRIENDS ARE WITHOUT AN OUNCE OF CLASS!
COULD YOU STOP BRINGING THEM OVER?
YOU'RE TOO CONTROLLING OF KANAKO
JUST BECAUSE SHE'S AN HONEST GIRL WHO LISTENS TO WHAT YOU SAY-
IN COMPARISON, YOU'RE SO STUBBORN, AND YOU NEVER LISTEN TO A WORD I SAY
WELL, THAT'S TRUE
THEN THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON TO REFRAIN FROM BECOMING ACQUAINTED WITH BOYS-
I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH, MOM.
Now you're just being rude.
Please take no heed.
Oh really?
This is normal
THEY HAVEN'T GOTTEN ALONG SINCE WAY BACK
WELL, THAT'S A RELIEF!
HOW DARE YOU TALK TO ME LIKE THAT?!
AT ANY RATE I'VE LONG SINCE GIVEN UP ON YOU
gya
WHY DON'T YOU GET BACK TO WORK ALREADY?!
gya
WELL, AT LEAST I'M NOT LIKE YOU!
gya
YOU'RE SO REBELLIOUS!
I ALWAYS WONDER WHO YOU TOOK AFTER

BUT DON'T TIE HER DOWN
IT'S TRUE STUDIES ARE IMPORTANT,
AND TAKE AWAY KANAKO'S FREEDOM!
YEAH...
She seems really controlling of her...
...SHE REALLY DOES LOOK LIKE A STRICT MOM...
9ya
9ya
I'M SORRY, YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE AND...
...WELL, I GUESS WE'LL GET GOING THEN.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FOREHEAD?
AH, FUSEYA-SAN,
noise
noise
...Since a long time ago,
9ya
9ya
Kanako's number one ally has been her,
and I'm sure that won't change in the near future either...
OH,
I FELL...
OH YEAH AND LIKE...
Ishoujo Scans

I HEARD THE WOMAN OF THE RAINY SEASON'S APPEARED AGAIN
ba-dump
To the woman of the Rainy Season, your umbrella is at the back of the school building.
HUH? YOU DON'T KNOW?
WHAT'S "THE WOMAN OF THE RAINY SEASON?"
IT'S THIS GHOST THAT'S BEING TALKED ABOUT BY THE KIDS OVER AT DISTRICT 2 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
A-
A GHOST?
I HEARD SHE KIDNAPS KIDS AND EATS 'EM?
I THOUGHT IT WAS THAT WHEN SHE WAS SEEN HOLDING AN UMBRELLA, IT RAINS?
WELL, I HEARD SHE MELTS IF YOU THROW SALT ON HER.
YEAH, AND IT SEEMS LIKE THE GIRL'S SOMEONE FROM OUR SCHOOL-
ARE YOU FOR REAL?!
OH,
Yeah!
AND LIKE-
I HEARD THIS FROM MY SIS BUT THE BOYS FROM HER CLASS SET UP A TRAP TO GET RID OF THE WOMAN OF THE RAINY SEASON-
SO?!
WHAT HAP-PENED?!
UNFORTU-NATELY, IT SEEMS THAT SHE GOT AWAY-
There was a rumor of an incident at my school.
BUMMER!
That sucks!
Ah Whatever.

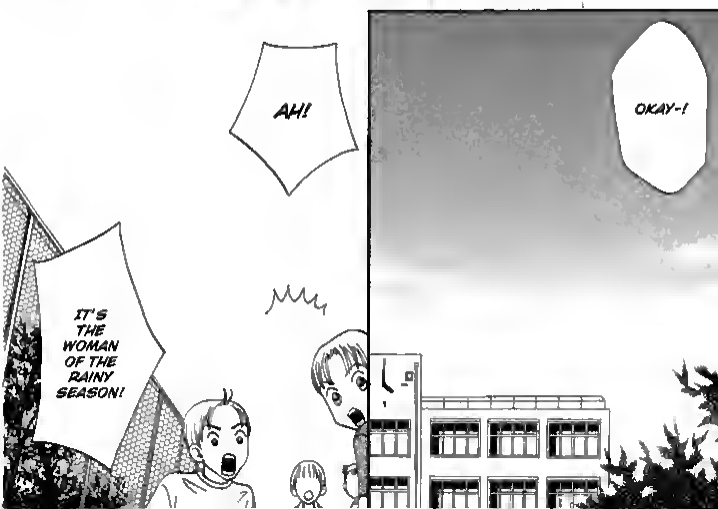
I'm...
a ghost?
I WONDER HOW THE RUMORS GOT STARTED ANYWAY
I'm human
No!
human
WHO KNOWS
IT KIND OF TOOK ON A LIFE OF ITS OWN THOUGH
Since they're still kids after all
YEAH, BUT SINCE THE GIRL BECAME THE BASIS FOR A RUMOR LIKE THAT MUST MEAN SHE'S A PRETTY WEIRD PERSON!
Ba-dump
YEAH-
LIKE SOMEONE SUPER UGLY-
shake
"Ugly"...
...
Someone ugly enough to be mistaken as a ghost-
Yeah, that's totally possible
ha ha ha ha



splash

splash

splash

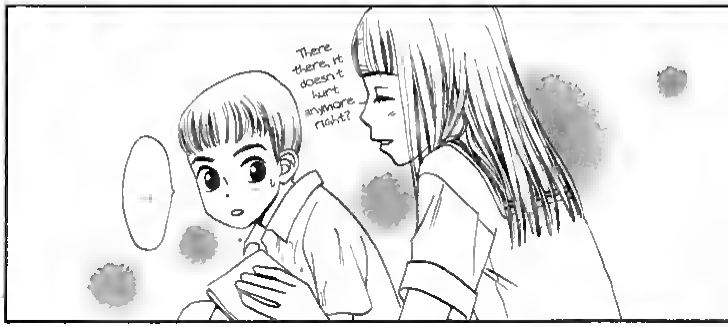


I-I
WON'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU!
I'M JUST A NORMAL PERSON!
AH,
W-WAIT!
WHOA-!
RUN-?!
She's gonna try to kidnap us!
It's gonna rain!
I WAS HURT!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
GHOST
YOU'RE IMMORTAL!
EVEN AFTER WE SET UP A TRAP, YOU'RE STILL IN PERFECT HEALTH!
YOU'RE LYING!
YEAH, THAT'S WEIRD!
BUT I'M JUST A NORMAL PERSON...
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO THINK... I'M A GHOST...
I DON'T KNOW WHY...
IT HURT, YOU KNOW...

THAT'S REALLY CREEPY!
YOU WHISTLE!
BOO-!
BOO-!
HOW CAN WE BELIEVE YOU?!
PLEASE BELIEVE ME...
T-THE WHISTLING IS...
Every scary incident starts with that, they?
GHOST-!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
KANA...
DON'T TRY TO MAKE EXCUSES!
SHUT UP-!
U-GLY!
DOG FACE!
Taboo word.
WHOA-!
Rush!
dashes
KANAKO!

I DON'T KNOW THE CIRCUM-STANCES, BUT...
I...
IT'S JUST RUBBISH COMING FROM BRATS!
SHOULDN'T LET WHAT THEY SAID GET TO YOU!
Y-YOU...
WON'T TAKE WHAT THEY SAID SERIOUSLY, SO DON'T WORRY...
R-REALLY...?
YEAH.
IT'S STRANGE, BUT HEARING STUFF LIKE THAT DOESN'T BOTHER ME AS MUCH AS IT USED TO...
Hey! The Woman of the Rainy Season!

ARE YOU OKAY?!
...H...
plat
dashes

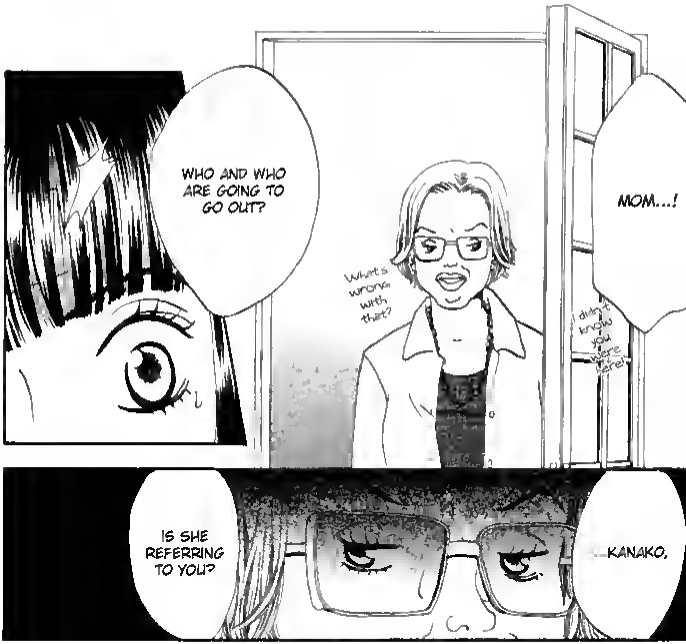

There there. It doesn't hurt anymore now, right?

Yeah.
Really?
Him Jime.
Bye-!
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE...
Your clothes got dirty.

EIJI-KUN SAID THAT I'M FINE, AND THAT THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT...
WHEN HE TOLD ME THAT HE LIKED ME...
IT GAVE ME A LOT OF CONFIDENCE.
I THINK THAT IN THE FUTURE, NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF HARSH WORDS ARE THROWN MY WAY, I'LL BE ABLE TO HANDLE THEM.

BUT
I STILL CAN'T FORGET THOSE TWO YEARS THAT YOU COULDN'T SMILE
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT HE WON'T EVER HURT YOU AGAIN, YOU KNOW?
IF YOU TRUST HIM LIKE THAT,
AND YOU END UP GOING OUT WITH HIM...
I CAN'T COMPLETELY TRUST AKIBA KUN

Ishouju Scans
EIJI-KUN...
click
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IF HE BETRAYS YOU?
I WAS WONDERING WHAT ALL THIS RUCKUS WAS ABOUT.
WHAT ARE YOU TWO TALKING ABOUT?

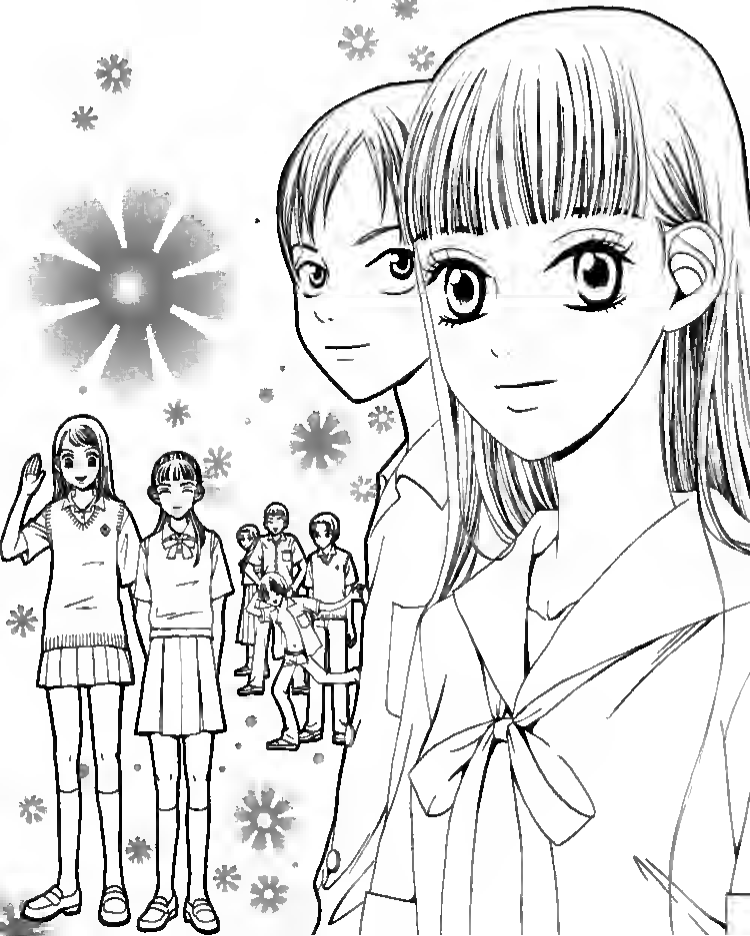

WHO AND WHO ARE GOING TO GO OUT?
What's wrong with that?
didn't he know you were there?
MOM...!
IS SHE REFERRING TO YOU?
KANAKO,

I'M SURE YOU DON'T NEED ME TO TELL YOU, BUT I WON'T ALLOW FOR ANYTHING THAT WILL GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR STUDIES.
WITH A BOY?

The Reason Why She Can't Smile

Volume 4 Chapter 19

The Reason Why She Can't Smile



PLEASE WAIT JUST A MOMENT!
I PROMISE I WON'T EVER LET MY GRADES DROP,
AND REGARDING SCHOOL WORK, I'LL-
MY!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE SERIOUS, KANAKO?
ARE YOU REALLY SAYING YOU'RE GOING TO ASSOCIATE YOURSELF WITH A BOY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
...YOU WON'T ALLOW IT...
...
NODS

Fall

Since a long time ago my house gets really hot when the sun shines in during the summer,so we keep the shutters closed, leading to the inside of the house being eerily dark. But once fall hits we open the shutters up so it suddenly becomes blindingly bright. So the image I have of fall is that of sunshine and white brightness.And whenever I get a whiff of the fragrant olive tree I can't help but get in the mood for Sports Day.I also like the Japanese maple. It makes me want to go to the Hot Springs for some reason. The one in Okuhi

Well ...
I GUESS...
ONEE-CHAN!
FROM WHAT I OVERHEARD EARLIER, YOU SEEM TO BE AGAINST THIS TOO?
AYAKO,
THAT'S A BIT SURPRISING
THAT OUR VIEWS WOULD OVERLAP LIKE THAT...
EH...
IT'S MUCH TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO BE HAVING RELATIONS WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX!
ABSOLUTELY NOT!
I ABSOLUTELY WON'T ALLOW IT!
THEN MAKE SURE TO KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON HER, AYAKO
KANAKO
MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T GET HERSELF INVOLVED IN ANYTHING UNNECESSARY...
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN UNNECESSA-
DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
MAKE SURE TO GO LET HIM KNOW YOURSELF THAT YOU CAN'T SEE HIM ANYMORE

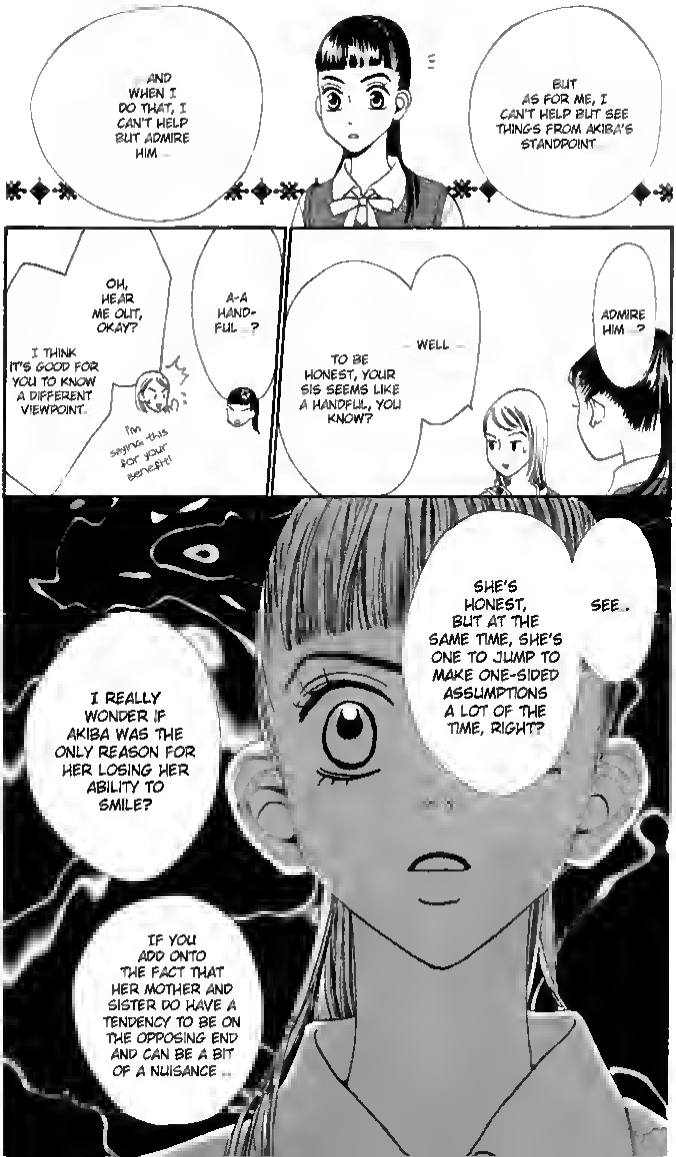
This time around, it'll probably also...
CLICK
Until now, Kanako's never gone against Mom's wishes
After what Mom said yesterday she's-
...YOU SEEM DOWN TODAY FOR SOME REASON
HUH?
NO, EVERY-THING'S FINE
That's the only thing I can see out of
Today's the start of the week-long exams! I won't have club practice.
TAKEN ABACK

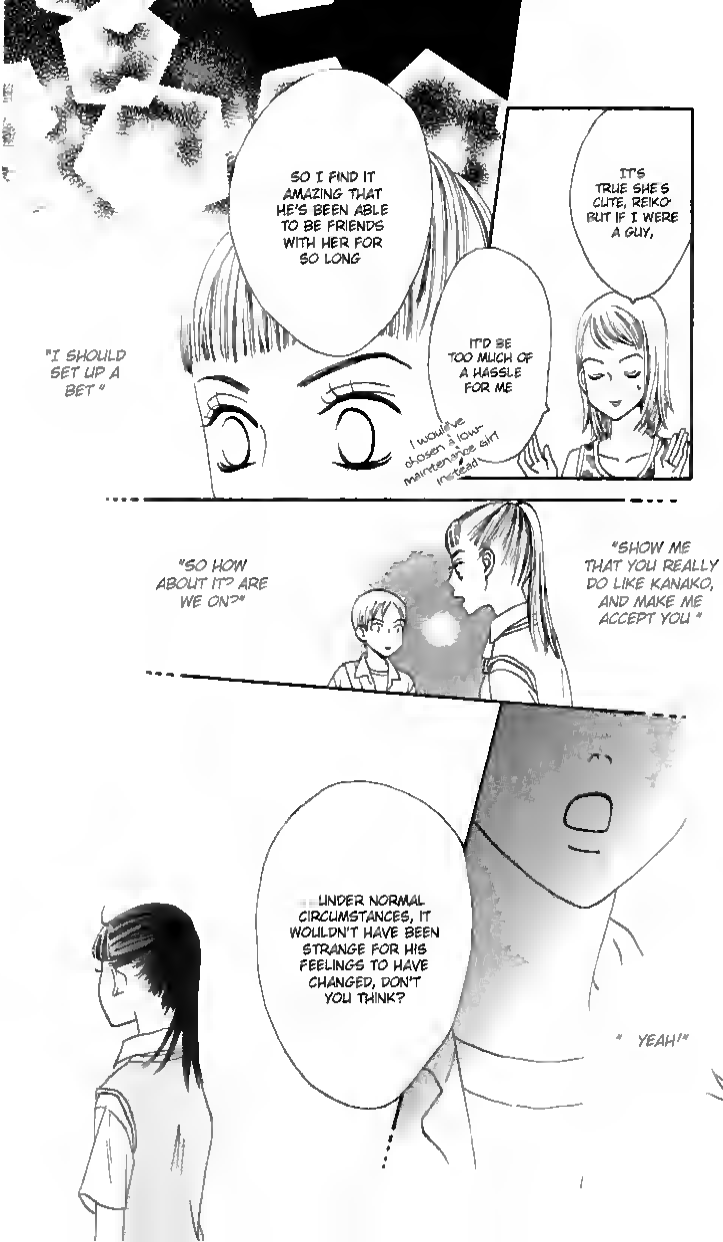
TELL ME IF SOMETHING'S UP THOUGH ALRIGHT?
O-OKAY
SO SHE HASN'T TOLD HIM MOM'S AGAINST THEIR RELATIONSHIP?
AND DURING SUMMER,
LET'S HANG OUT.
FLINCH
Y-YEAH, LET'S!
BUSTLE
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH-
WE'RE GOING HOME, KANAKO!
O-ONEE-CHA...
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
stomp
stomp
stomp
stomp
stomp
stomp
...
silence
How could you, Onee-chan?
glances
Y-YES?!
ONEE-CHAN
BA-DUMP!

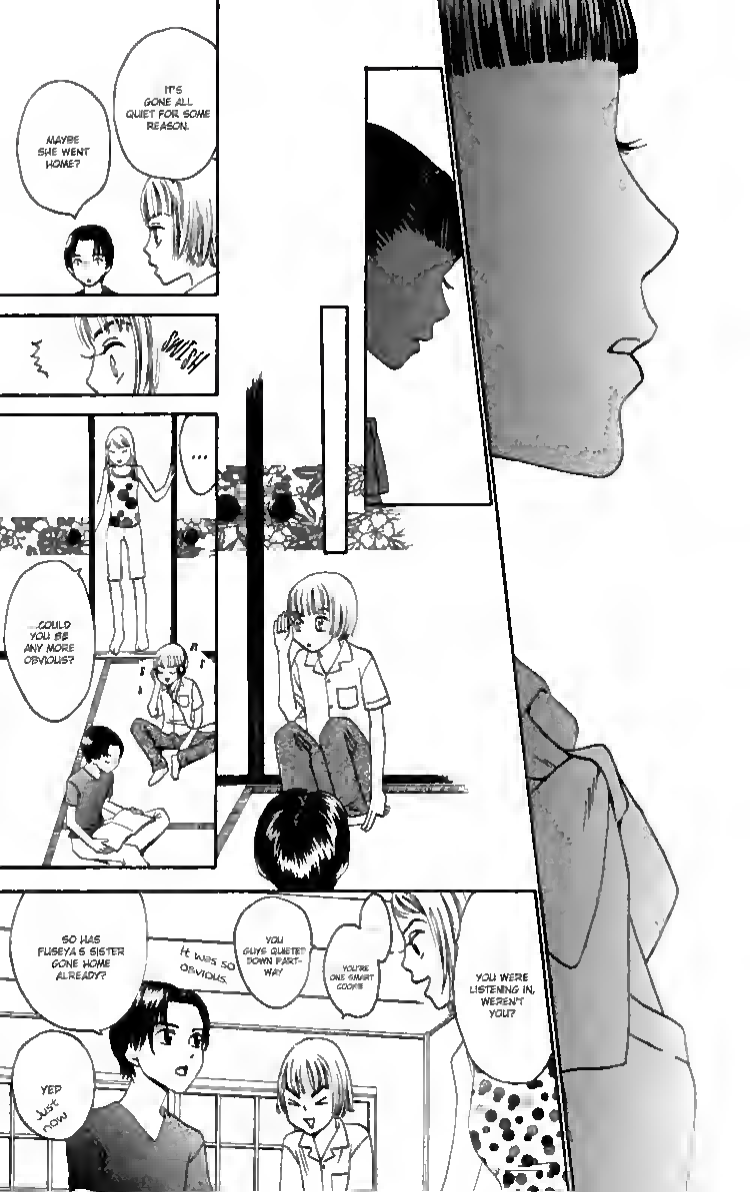
THE HYDRANGEAS ARE SO PRETTY.
I heard if the flowers are pink that means the soil's alkaline.
The school courtyard has blue ones
KANAKO... DON'T YOU THINK I'M BEING ANNOYING?
HUH...?
LIKE DISTURBING YOU JUST NOW WHEN YOU WERE WITH AKIRA-KUN
AND BEING AGAINST YOU TWO BEING TOGETHER...
BE HONEST YOU THINK I'M A NUISANCE, DON'T YOU?

I'M REALLY HAPPY ABOUT THAT...
BUT BEFORE THAT, THE FACT THAT YOU CARE ABOUT ME SO MUCH-
WHAT'S WRONG?
DON'T THINK THAT AT ALL...
I...
W-WELL... SURE, I THINK IT'D BE GREAT IF YOU COULD ACCEPT EIJI-KUN...
I'M SORRY FOR ALWAYS WORRYING YOU. .
...TO BE HONEST, I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

IS AKIBA-KUN HERE?!
They're pretty noisy.
blinks
SORRY MY BROTHER'S GOT SOME FRIENDS OVER.
NO, DON'T WORRY
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THAT AGAINST IT...
...
...SO BY THAT, YOU MEAN...?
AND EVEN THOUGH SHE SAID SHE WAS FINE, SHE'S BEEN REALLY DOWN LATELY...
WELL, MOM'S BEEN ESPECIALLY HARSH.
WHOA
WHOA
...SO
To get back to the topic about them
YOU'RE AGAINST IT TOO, AYAKO?
YEAH, I AM,
BUT...
EVER SINCE I FOUND OUT KANAKO LIKED HIM.
THERE'S BEEN A PART OF ME THAT SAYS THAT I SHOULDN'T DO SOMETHING STUPID LIKE BE AGAINST IT IF THEY FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT EACH OTHER.
...BUT IF AKIBA'S THE GUY IN QUESTION, THEN YOU STILL CAN'T MANAGE TO TRUST HIM?
...
...
YOU PROBABLY THINK ABOUT THINGS WITH YOUR LITTLE SISTER'S BEST INTERESTS IN MIND..


...AND WHEN I DO THAT, I CAN'T HELP BUT ADMIRE HIM...
BUT AS FOR ME, I CAN'T HELP BUT SEE THINGS FROM AKIBA'S STANDPOINT...
ADMIRE HIM...?
...WELL...
TO BE HONEST, YOUR SIS SEEMS LIKE A HANDFUL, YOU KNOW?
A-A HANDFUL...?
OH, HEAR ME OUT, OKAY?
I THINK IT'S GOOD FOR YOU TO KNOW A DIFFERENT VIEWPOINT.
I'm saying this for your benefit!
SEE...
SHE'S HONEST, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, SHE'S ONE TO JUMP TO MAKE ONE-SIDED ASSUMPTIONS A LOT OF THE TIME, RIGHT?
I REALLY WONDER IF AKIBA WAS THE ONLY REASON FOR HER LOSING HER ABILITY TO SMILE?
IF YOU ADD ONTO THE FACT THAT HER MOTHER AND SISTER DO HAVE A TENDENCY TO BE ON THE OPPOSING END AND CAN BE A BIT OF A NUISANCE...


"I SHOULD SET UP A BET."
SO I FIND IT AMAZING THAT HE'S BEEN ABLE TO BE FRIENDS WITH HER FOR SO LONG
IT'S TRUE SHE'S CUTE, REIKO, BUT IF I WERE A GUY,
IT'D BE TOO MUCH OF A HASSLE FOR ME
I would've chosen a low-maintenance girl instead.
"SO HOW ABOUT IT? ARE WE ON?"
"SHOW ME THAT YOU REALLY DO LIKE KANAKO, AND MAKE ME ACCEPT YOU."
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN STRANGE FOR HIS FEELINGS TO HAVE CHANGED, DON'T YOU THINK?
"YEAH!"

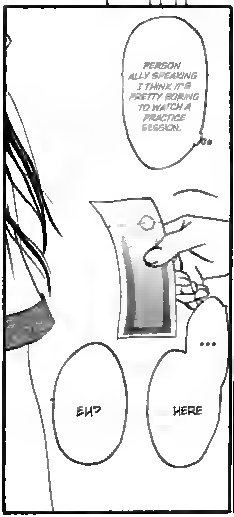

IT'S GONE ALL QUIET FOR SOME REASON.
MAYBE SHE WENT HOME?
PSSHH
...
...COULD YOU BE ANY MORE OBVIOUS?
YOU WERE LISTENING IN, WEREN'T YOU?
YOU GUYS QUIETED DOWN PART-WAY
YOU'RE ONE SMART COOKIE
IT WAS SO OBVIOUS
SO HAS FUSEYA'S SISTER GONE HOME ALREADY?
YEP JUST NOW

IT MAKES YOU WANNA HELP OUT SOMEHOW, HUH?
LOOKS LIKE EIJI'S GOT HIS WORK CUT OUT FOR HIM.
HMM.. THAT'S A LITTLE HARD TO SAY...
...SO HOW WAS SHE?
IS SHE ABOUT READY TO GIVE IN?
SIGH
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT
Now that they're so close.
While they're discussing this
THE END-OF-TERM EXAMS!
OVER!
plop
plop
plop
DURING SUMMER ON THE DAYS YOU DON'T HAVE CRAM SCHOOL, I'VE ARRANGED FOR YOU TO HAVE A HOME TUTOR, SO PLEASE PLAN YOUR DAYS AS SUCH
YES
IS TOMORROW AT 2:30 ISN'T IT?
...
KANAKO
THE PARENT-TEACHER CONSULTATION

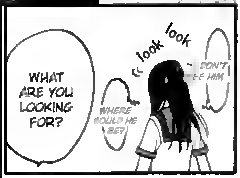
EH?
BUT
THE LAST END-OF-TERM'S GRADES...
YES,
THEY WERE GOOD, BUT YOU CAN'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.
YOU SHOULDN'T GO AROUND SLACKING OFF JUST BECAUSE IT'S SUMMER
BUT I...
YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE TO DO YOUR STUDIES
CLICK
SLAM
"...DURING SUMMER, LET'S HANG OUT"
EI-JI!
SNIFF

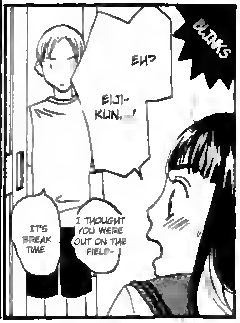
YOU SHOULD GO WITH FUSEYA-
LIKE DURING THE SUMMER--
WHAT IS IT?
TWO TICKETS TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK
It was a prize I won.
CHUCKLES-
YOU CAN HAVE THIS
OH, IT'S JUST YOU
Don't use that kind of voice! It creeps me out
IS HE GOING TO TELL ME TO MIND MY OWN BIZ AGAIN?
si...lence...
THANKS
Since Fuseya has the parent-teacher meeting today, she should still be on school grounds.
Really
-this is the first time he's thanked me!
I'M SO GLAD I DIDN'T MIND MY OWN BUSINESS!

I don't see her...
...


PERSON ALLY SPEAKING I THINK IT'S PRETTY BORING TO WATCH A PRACTICE SESSION.
EH?
HERE
...

I was surprised that you suddenly appeared behind me.
...SINCE THERE IS STILL A BIT OF TIME BEFORE THE MEETING I WAS WATCHING YOU PRACTICING OUTSIDE
ME?!


WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
look look
DON'T SEE HIM
WHERE COULD HE BE?


BLINKS
EH?
EIJI-KUN...?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE OUT ON THE FIELD-
IT'S BREAK TIME

YEAH
HIRO GAVE ME THESE.
DO YOU WANT TO GO DURING THE SUMMER BREAK?
THE AMUSEMENT PARK?!

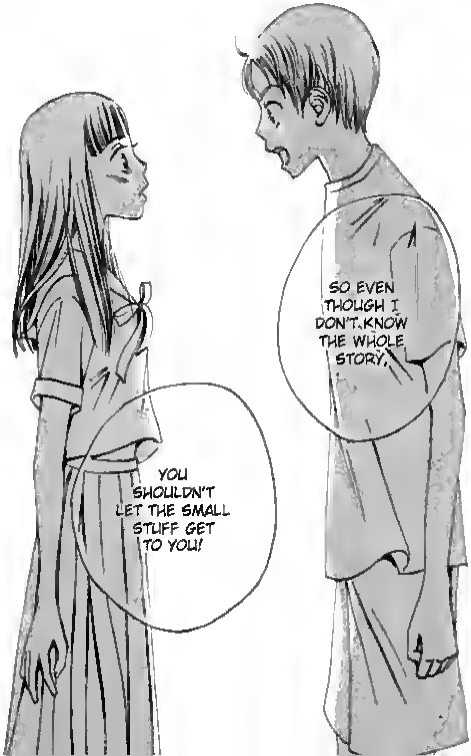
WHAT'S WRONG?
SO IT MIGHT BE NICE AS A CHANGE OF PACE TO-
"YOU SHOULDN'T GO AROUND SLACKING OFF JUST BECAUSE IT'S SUMMER."
SUMMER BREAK
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT YOU'VE BEEN DOWN LATELY,
"I'VE ARRANGED FOR YOU TO HAVE A HOME TUTOR."

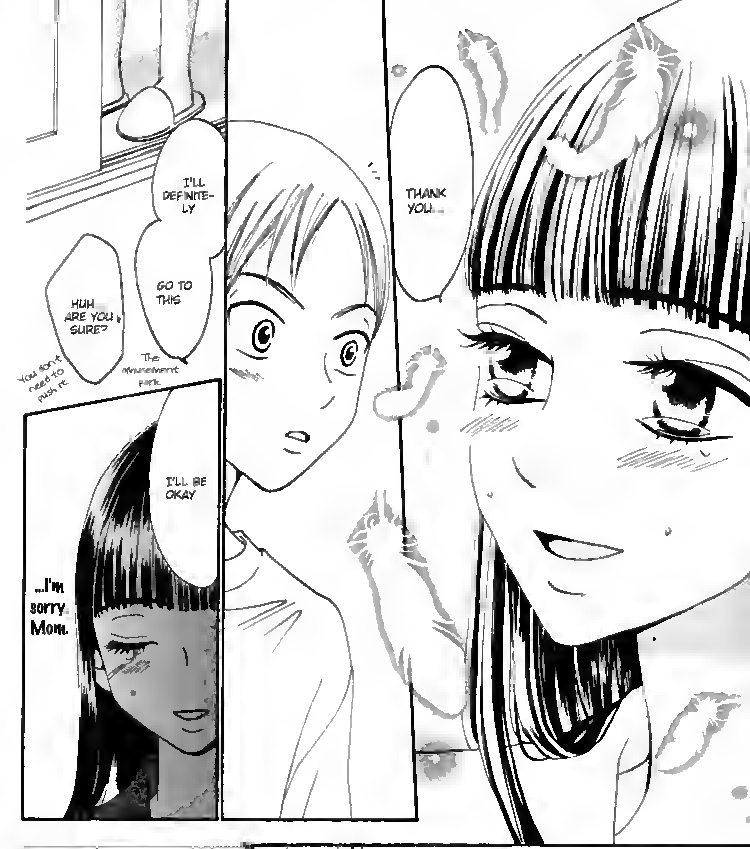
N-NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE!
..YOU CAN'T GO?
I WANT TO!

I'M GOING. I'M DEFINITELY GOING!
IT'S NOTHING!
...
WHAT?
BUT...
I WANT TO GO!
BUT...
LET'S GO!
Are you sure...?
THERE'S SOMETHING NOT RIGHT ABOUT YOU LATELY...
EVEN IF YOU SAY YOU CAN'T GO, I WON'T GET MAD!
I'LL HEAR YOU OUT!
NOTH...
NO, YOU'RE NOT
T-THAT'S NOT TRUE
I'M FINE
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN? IF SO, TELL ME!

WILL YOU PROMISE NOT TO HATE ME...?
HUH?!
WHY? JUST BECAUSE YOU TURN ME DOWN TO GO TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK?
THERE'S NO WAY THAT'D HAPPEN!
BUT... I'M SURE THINGS LIKE THIS WILL HAPPEN AGAIN IN THE FUTURE...
AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS...
YOU MIGHT THINK IT'S A HASSLE AND...
I'M PRETTY SHORT-TEMPERED BY NATURE,
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY... I'M FINE WHEN IT COMES TO YOU.

I CAN STAND IT
EVEN IF IT TAKES TIME, I HAVE THIS FEELING LIKE WE CAN MAKE IT WORK.
EVEN I THINK IT'S STRANGE THAT I FEEL THIS WAY


SO EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW THE WHOLE STORY,
YOU SHOULDN'T LET THE SMALL STUFF GET TO YOU!


I'LL DEFINITELY GO TO THIS
HUH... ARE YOU SURE?
You don't need to push it.
The Amusement Park
THANK YOU...
I'LL BE OKAY
...I'm sorry, Mom.

THE 21ST OF JULY?
WHEN DO YOU WANT TO GO?
...
OKAY THEN, ON THE 21ST!
On this day, I'll skip cram school and my home tutoring.

Oh and speaks of the devil, here he comes!
Oh, it's almost time!
I think my mom might be here already
I HAVE WORK SO I WON'T BE HOME-
ON JULY 21ST,
...
...HELLO? AYAKO?
IT'S ME
p1
p1
Do your best at practice!
IS THAT CLEAR?
SO DO YOU HEAR ME? ON THIS DAY, DON'T LET KANAKO OUTSIDE.
Closing Ceremony
WHAT GREAT WEATHER!
YEAH THEY SAID IT'S THE END OF RAINY SEASON!
OH

IT'S FINALLY THE START OF SUMMER BREAK!
BA-DUMP
THAT REMINDS ME... WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WOMAN OF THE RAINY SEASON STUFF ANYWAY?
I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THAT LATELY.
OH!
BEATS ME.
WELL, RUMORS DO HAVE A TENDENCY TO BE SHORT-LIVED.
Now, that's why I'm asking you!
What happened anyway?
TOMORROW'S THE BIG DAY...
MOM WON'T BE BACK FROM WORK UNTIL THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
SO I THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO COVER IT UP SOMEHOW...
badump
badump

ONEE-CHAN
...
WHAT IS IT?
I'M GOING OUT TOMORROW.
...
CLICK
I'M GOING TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK WITH EIJI-KUN.
I MADE PLANS TO MEET HIM AT THE TRAIN STATION IN THE MORNING.
SO I'LL LEAVE THE HOUSE EARLY.
...
YOU'RE SO FOOLISH, KANAKO.
I MIGHT CHOOSE TO GET IN THE WAY TOMORROW.
IF YOU TELL ME SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

click
...
...WELL, GOOD NIGHT.
I DON'T WANT TO KEEP SECRETS FROM YOU ANY-MORE, SO....
...YEAH, BUT
click
I'M LEAVING NOW...
On my way out, I peeked into my sister's room, but it was empty.
"IF YOU TELL ME SOMETHING LIKE THAT, I MIGHT CHOOSE TO GET IN THE WAY TOMORROW."
NOISE
HONK
A clear day.
The next day.

NOISE
NOISE
NOISE
NOISE
NOISE
NOISE
DID WHAT...? SHE COME TO INTER-FERE...?
MAYBE SHE STOPPED HER FROM COMING...
AKIBA-KUN...
...
WHAT IS IT ABOUT KANAKO THAT YOU LIKE ANYWAY?
HUH?!
...HER SMILE...?
OH...

HUH?
MAKE SURE THAT YOU GET KANAKO HOME BEFORE IT GETS TOO LATE TODAY.
NOISE
NOISE
NOISE
NOISE
I
LOST THE BET, AFTER ALL
A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

Sorry to keep you waiting!
EIJI-KUN!
...WHY COULDN'T I HAVE BEEN MORE HONEST?
HUH?
YO, JUST NOW-
YOUR SISTER...

Hahaha
Ugly! Ugly!
If you want it back try and catch me!
Noooo! Give it back!
ONEE-CHAN.
GRABS
HEY!
What is your problem?!
Let me go!

Being warmly watched over by those around me,
KANAKO, HURRY!

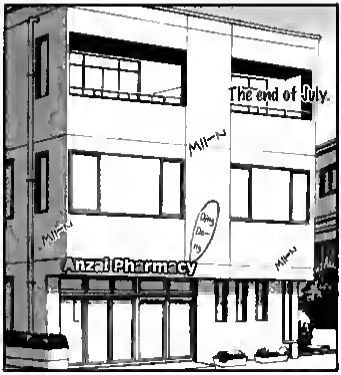
and with
Eiji-kun by
my side—
these things
are what makes
my smile today
possible.

Presents
The Reason Why She Can't Smile
Volume 4
Oneshot #1

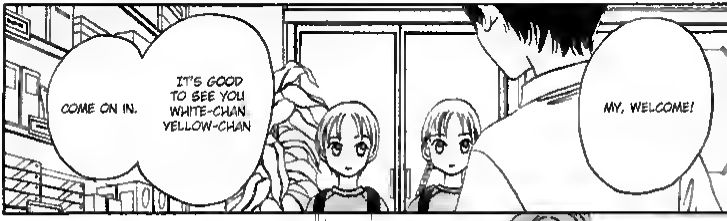
THE CHILDREN
OF GREEN
DRIVE SAFELY

White and Yellow have disappeared.
NO ONE HAS ANY IDEA WHERE THEY COULD HAVE GONE ?!
WHERE DID THEY GO?!
This was something that happened after the divorce proceedings for my uncle and aunt were settled.
and the day had finally arrived when they were going to be separated and taken in by each parent.
GYA
GYA

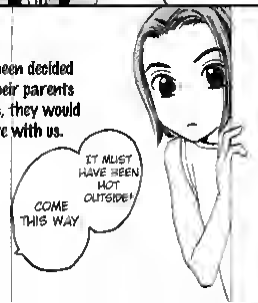
NOPE
NOZOMI-CHAN, DID THEY TELL YOU ANYTHING?!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE THEY COULD BE?



was thinking of the twins who were dreading being separated

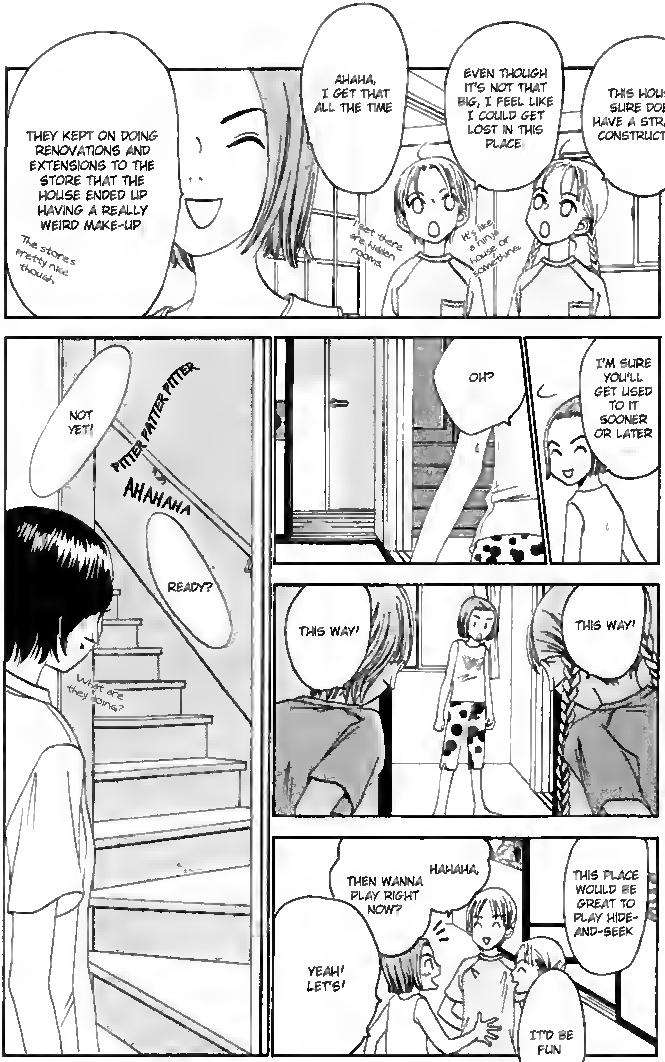


and it had been decided that until their parents settled things, they would come to live with us.

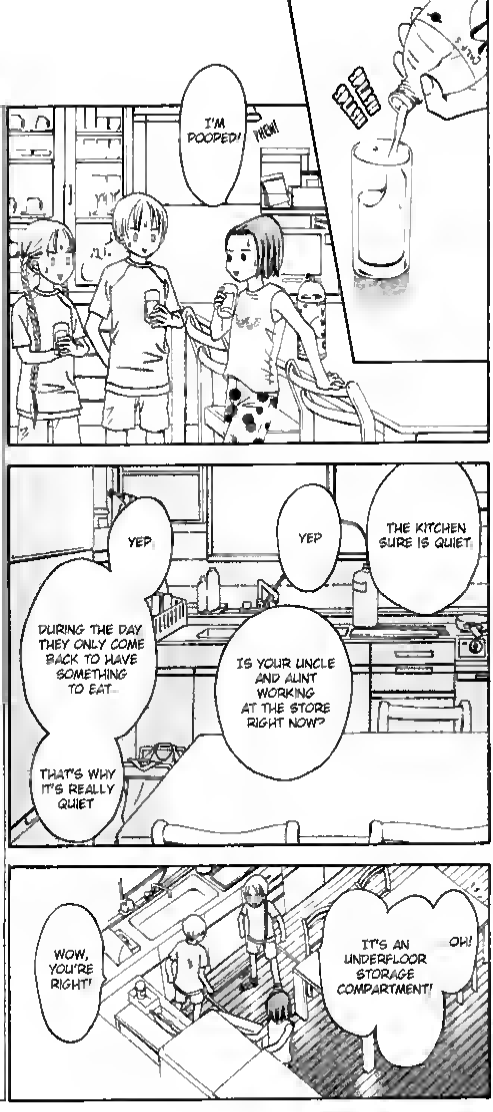


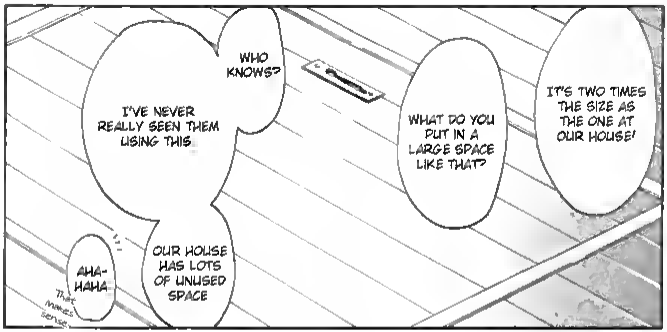
They were my cousins,

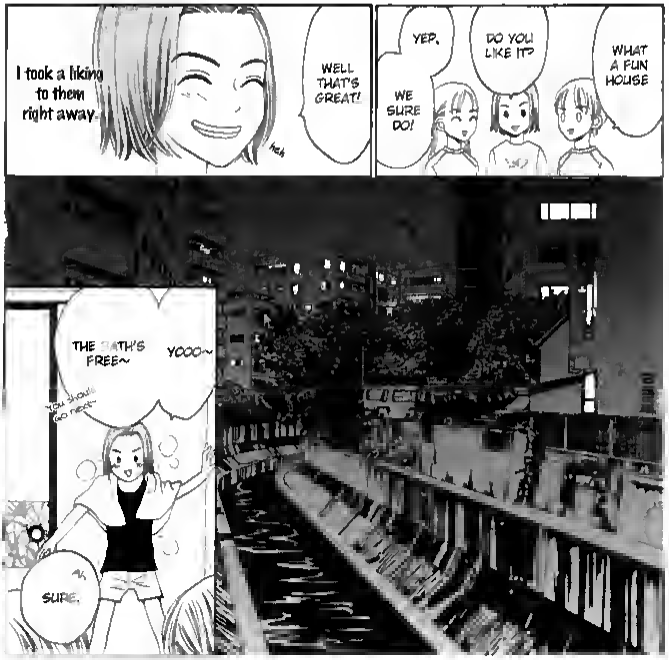
THIS IS THE BATH.
AND THAT'S THE BATH-ROOM
THESE STAIRS LEAD TO A DEAD END
WHAT'S THE DOOR FOR THEN?
IT'S CON-NECTED TO THE BACK DOOR
SHOWING HIM AROUND THE HOUSE
It had been so long since we had last seen each other that we didn't even remember what the other looked like,
but before we knew it, we'd become really close.


THIS HOUSE SURE DOES HAVE A STRANGE CONSTRUCTION
EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT THAT BIG, I FEEL LIKE I COULD GET LOST IN THIS PLACE
AHAHA, I GET THAT ALL THE TIME
I bet there are a hidden rooms
It's like living in a house of adventure
THEY KEPT ON DOING RENOVATIONS AND EXTENSIONS TO THE STORE THAT THE HOUSE ENDED UP HAVING A REALLY WEIRD MAKE-UP
The stairs pretty nice though
I'M SURE YOU'LL GET USED TO IT SOONER OR LATER
OH?
THIS WAY!
THIS WAY!
THIS PLACE WOULD BE GREAT TO PLAY HIDE-AND-SEEK
HAHAHA,
THEN WANNA PLAY RIGHT NOW?
YEAH! LET'S!
IT'D BE FUN
READY?
AHAHAHA
PITTER PATTER PITTER
NOT YET!
What are they doing?

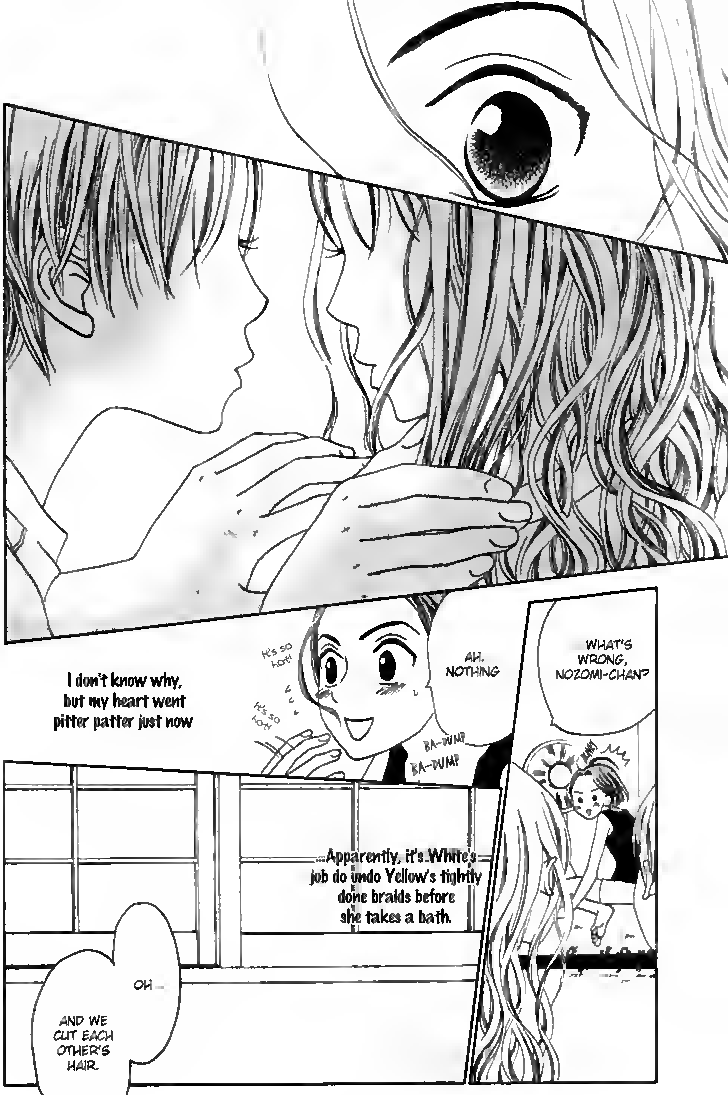
③


I'M POOPED!
WOW!
GULP GULP
THE KITCHEN SURE IS QUIET.
YEP
IS YOUR UNCLE AND AUNT WORKING AT THE STORE RIGHT NOW?
YEP
DURING THE DAY THEY ONLY COME BACK TO HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT...
THAT'S WHY IT'S REALLY QUIET
OH!
IT'S AN UNDERFLOOR STORAGE COMPARTMENT!
WOW, YOU'RE RIGHT!


IT'S TWO TIMES THE SIZE AS THE ONE AT OUR HOUSE!
WHAT DO YOU PUT IN A LARGE SPACE LIKE THAT?
WHO KNOWS?
I'VE NEVER REALLY SEEN THEM USING THIS.
OUR HOUSE HAS LOTS OF UNUSED SPACE
AHA-HAHA
That makes sense.


I took a liking to them right away.
WELL THAT'S GREAT!
YEP.
WE SURE DO!
DO YOU LIKE IT?
WHAT A FUN HOUSE
THE BATH'S FREE~
YOOO~
You should go next.
SURE.

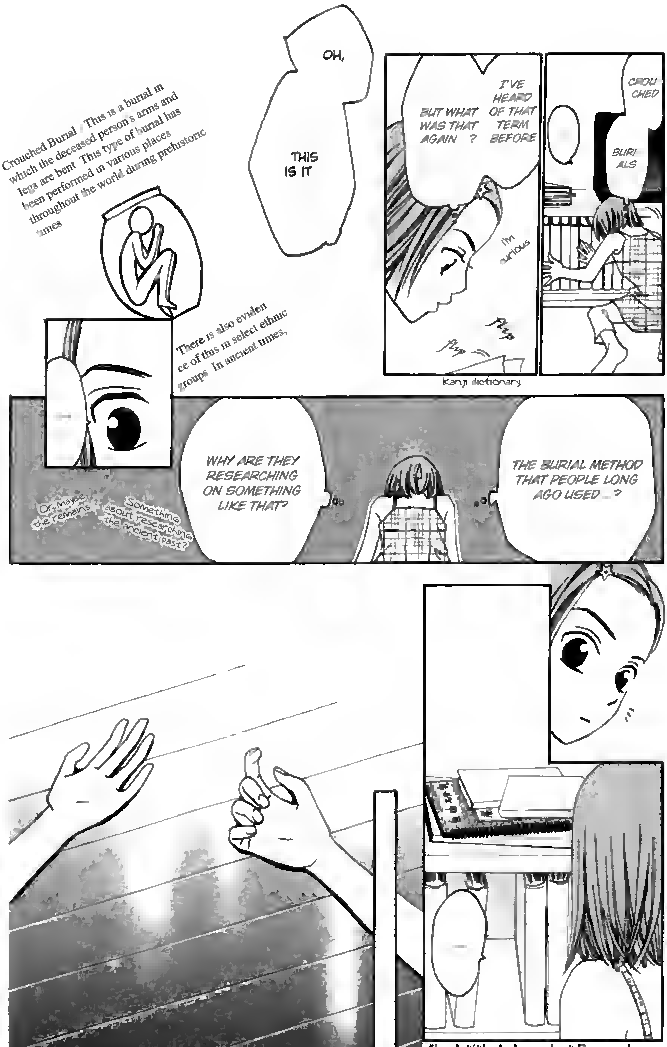
It's so hot
YOU SHOULD GO IN FIRST YELLOW
OKAY
VRRRR

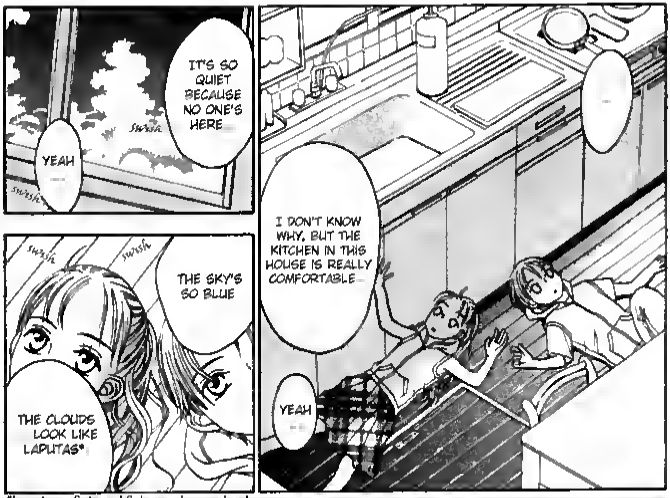

WHAT'S WRONG, NOZOMI-CHAN?
AH, NOTHING
BA-DUMP BA-DUMP
IT'S SO HOT!
IT'S SO HOT!
I don't know why, but my heart went pitter patter just now
...Apparently, it's White's job to undo Yellow's tightly done braids before she takes a bath.
OH...
AND WE CUT EACH OTHER'S HAIR.

YEAH
WE DYED OUR HAIR GREEN
IN THE PAST, WE DYED EACH OTHER'S HAIR!
YEAH OH, AND
YOUR HAIR?
REALLY?
GREEN?!
Why?!
DUN-NO
BUT WE HAD TO DYE IT BACK TO BLACK BECAUSE OUR TEACHER GOT REALLY MAD AT US
giggle giggle
WE LOOKED GOOD WITH GREEN HAIR THOUGH!
giggle
AHA-HAHA
I wish somehow seem fake
IS THERE A RIVER NEARBY?
swish
swish swish
A SMALL ONE IN THE BACK BUT IT'S REALLY DIRTY
YEAH
swish
swish
swish
BUT THE SOUND'S REALLY NICE THOUGH
YEAH, IT IS
BIRDS PROBABLY LIVE THERE
THEY'RE PROBABLY ASLEEP ALREADY BY NOW THOUGH.
NO THERE AREN'T
IT'S REALLY DIRTY THERE.
AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER, I BET THERE ARE PRETTY ROCKS SPARKLING
LIKE I SAID, THE RIVER'S DIRTY...
And besides it's concrete underneath there.
I BET THE PRETTY FISH ARE SLEEPING RIGHT NOW TOO.

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
SWISH
WE CAN SEE IT...
SHAKA SHAKA SHAKA SHAKA
Raise your arms up in the air, and take a deep breath

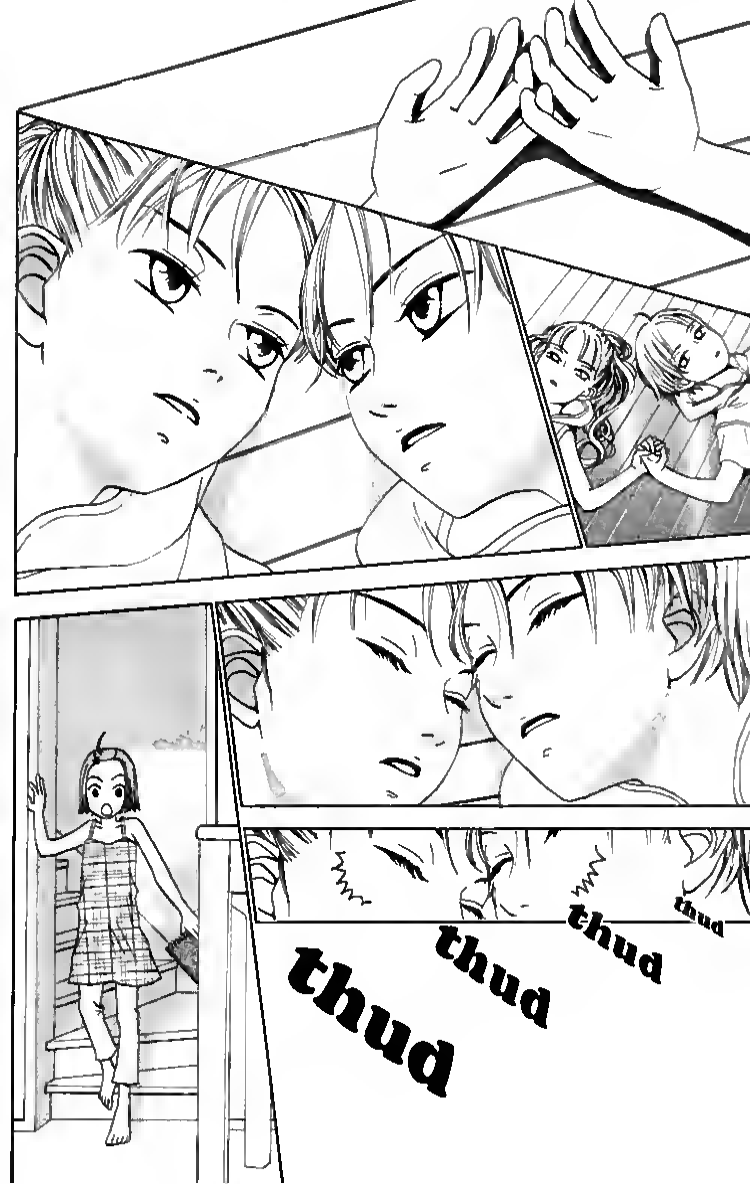
The morning study session.
YOU'VE ALREADY FINISHED YOUR HOMEWORK FOR THE SUMMER?!
WHAT?!
YEP
OKAY...
That's not fair~
CAN WE WATCH "THE SUMMER CHILDREN'S PLAY"?
We work together so we can split it up—so we can finish it and really chill!
I have this feeling that they have a world of their own that other people can't get into.
Or maybe it's just them?
...so I guess it's true that twins have a special bond?
The radio exercise #2
WHAT DID YOU CHOOSE FOR THE PROJECT?
Oh
IT'S ON CROUCHED BURIALS.
WHAT...?
We'll get in the way if we watch it here, so we're going to go downstairs.
Where's that?
PITAPATA...
WE ONLY HAVE THE EXPERIMENT AND RESULTS TO WRITE UP THOUGH..
BUT WE STILL HAVE OUR INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT TO DO.
OH.
We're gonna do it together too.

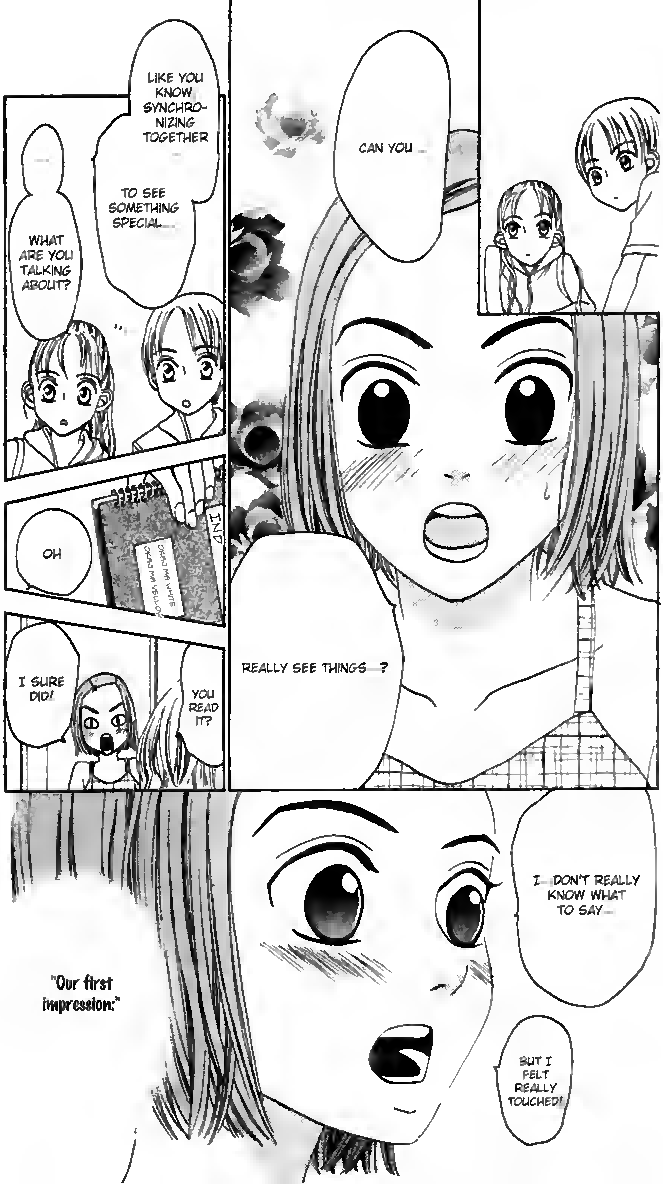

OH,
THIS IS IT
Crouched Burial : This is a burial in which the deceased person's arms and legs are bent. This type of burial has been performed in various places throughout the world during prehistoric times.
There is also evidence of this in select ethnic groups in ancient times.
I'VE HEARD OF THAT TERM BEFORE
BUT WHAT WAS THAT AGAIN ?
Im curious
Flip
Flip
CROUCHED BURIALS
Kanji dictionary
WHY ARE THEY RESEARCHING ON SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
THE BURIAL METHOD THAT PEOPLE LONG AGO USED ... ?
Do you like researching something about something like ancient past?
Add
*book title Independent Research


IT'S SO QUIET BECAUSE NO ONE'S HERE...
YEAH...
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT THE KITCHEN IN THIS HOUSE IS REALLY COMFORTABLE...
YEAH...
THE SKY'S SO BLUE
THE CLOUDS LOOK LIKE LAPUTAS*

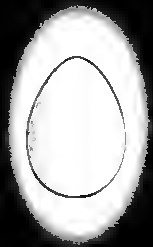
*Laputas- fictional flying rocks or islands

OR MAYBE CASTLES...
WHO LIVES THERE?
AND THEY NEVER PART.
TWO BIRDS, WITH ONLY ONE WING EACH NESTLE CLOSE TOGETHER.
TH..T SOUNDS GRE..T.
YE..H.


thud
thud
thud
thud


"Our first impression:"
I... DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
BUT I FELT REALLY TOUCHED!
REALLY SEE THINGS...?
CAN YOU...
LIKE YOU KNOW, SYNCHRO-NIZING TOGETHER...
TO SEE SOMETHING SPECIAL...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
OH
I SURE DID!
YOU READ IT?

"If we were to compare a crouched burial to something, we think it would be something like an egg."

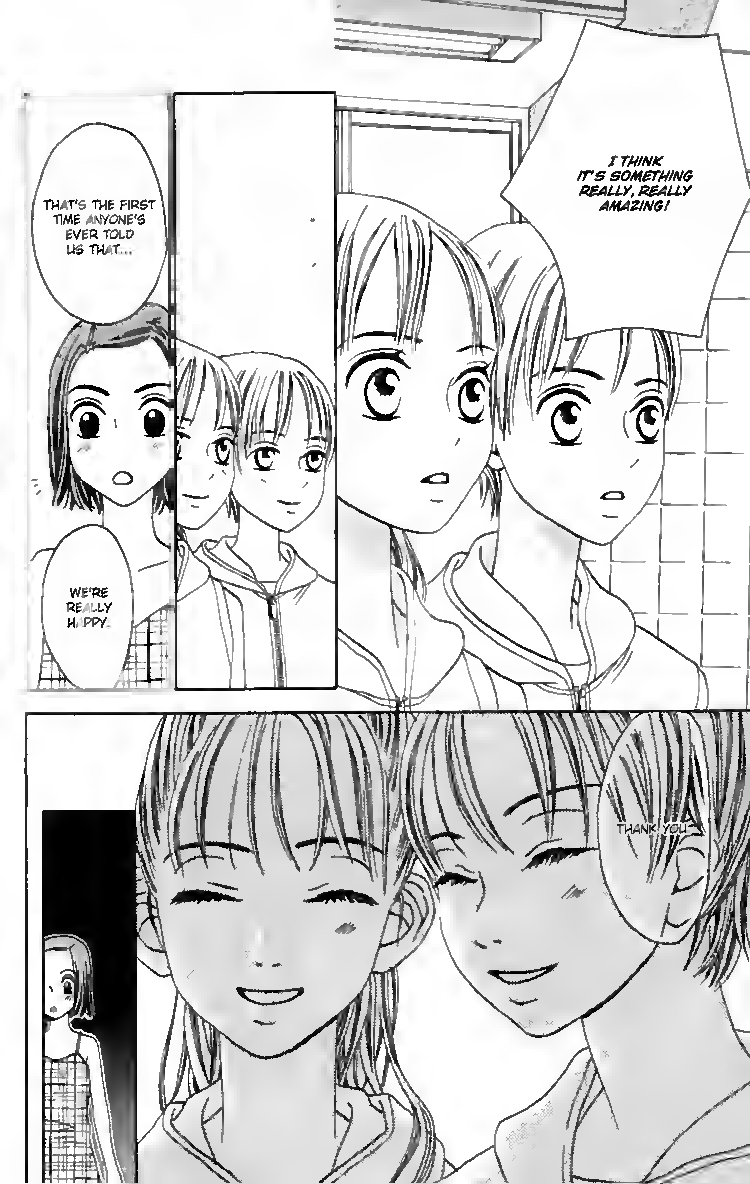


"The posture of the bent body is like that of a baby inside the womb."

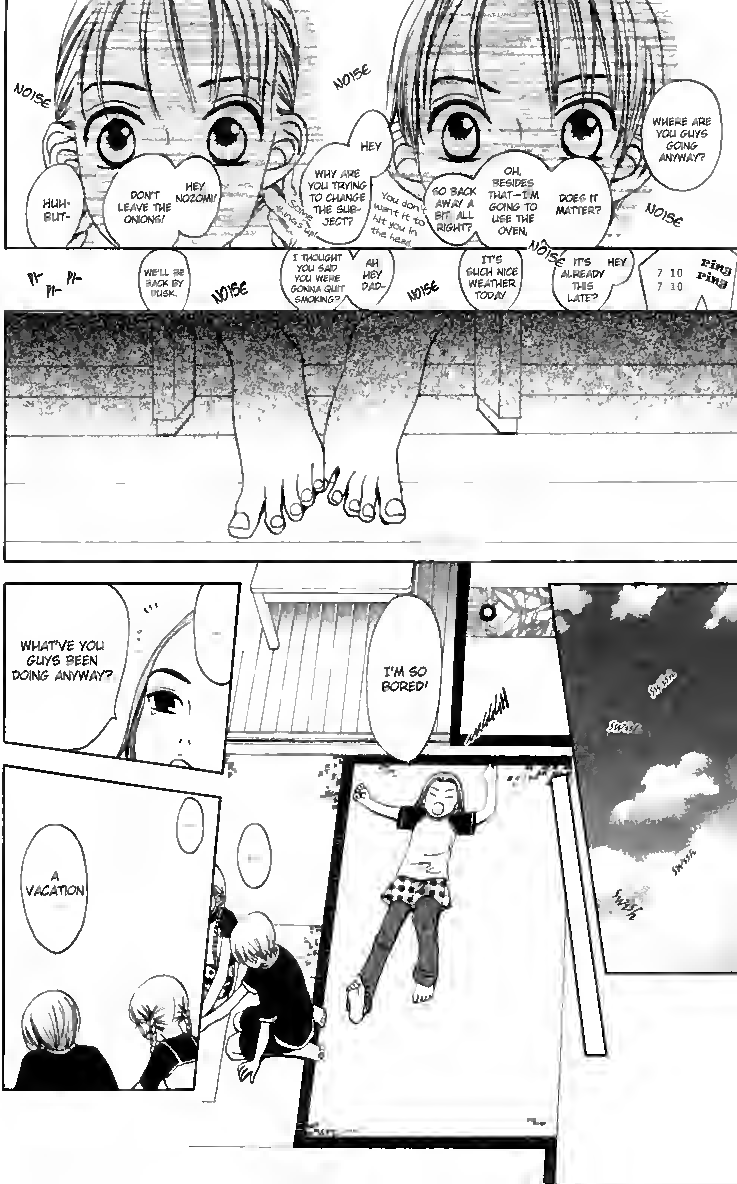
"That's why we think a crouched burial is a ceremony that is held with the wish that those who died will soon be reborn."

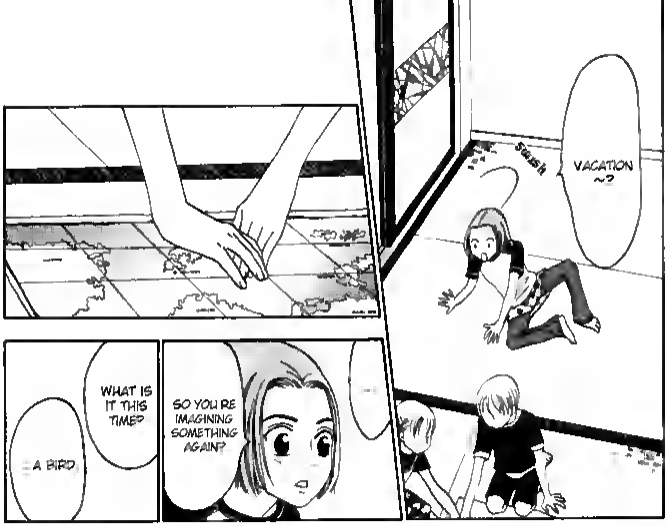
HOW...DID YOU COME UP WITH THAT IDEA?

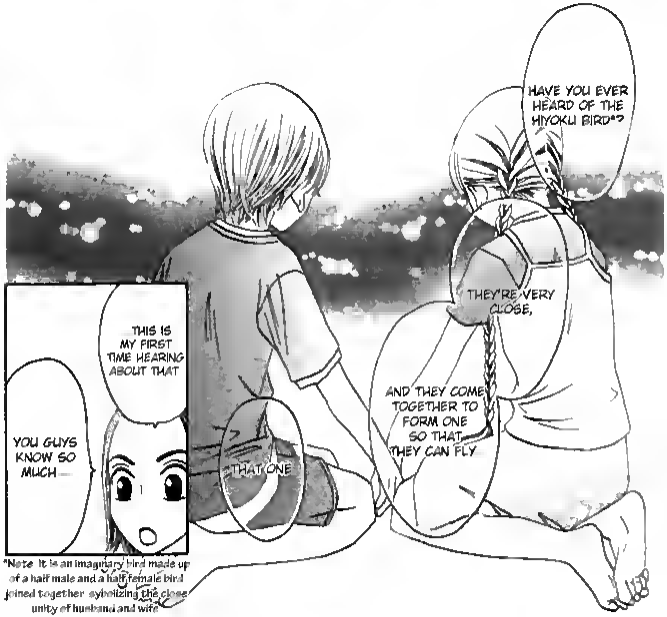
THAT'S AMAZING!
BUT THE EXPLANATION OF REBIRTH WAS WHAT CAME TO US INTUITIVELY
WHEN WE LOOKED INTO IT THOUGH, IT SEEMS OUR WAY OF THINKING ISN'T REALLY RIGHT...
...IT'S JUST OUR INTUITION.
THAT'S WHY WE STILL BELIEVE IT.
BUT I THINK IT'S PRETTY AMAZING THAT YOU TWO ARE TOGETHER!
I'M NOT SURE HOW TO EXPLAIN IT...
THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT YOUR SENSES!
THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU TWO!


I THINK IT'S SOMETHING REALLY, REALLY AMAZING!
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME ANYONE'S EVER TOLD US THAT...
WE'RE REALLY HAPPY.
THANK YOU...

Ishuu Scans
Morning
THIS IS THE MORNING EDITION
click
click
munch
munch
NOZOMI-CHAN,
SO CAN YOU STAY AT HOME TODAY?
YOUR FATHER AND I'LL BE GOING OUT FOR A BIT,
YOU KNOW THAT OUR STORE IS CLOSED TODAY RIGHT?
SURE
I MADE LUNCH FOR YOU, SO I'M GOING TO LEAVE IT IN THE FRIDGE
OKAY.
click
YELLOW-CHAN AND WHITE-CHAN, WE'LL LEAVE THINGS TO YOU TOO
OKAY...
AFTER THE COMMERCIAL BREAK: THE NATIONAL WEATHER NEWS-

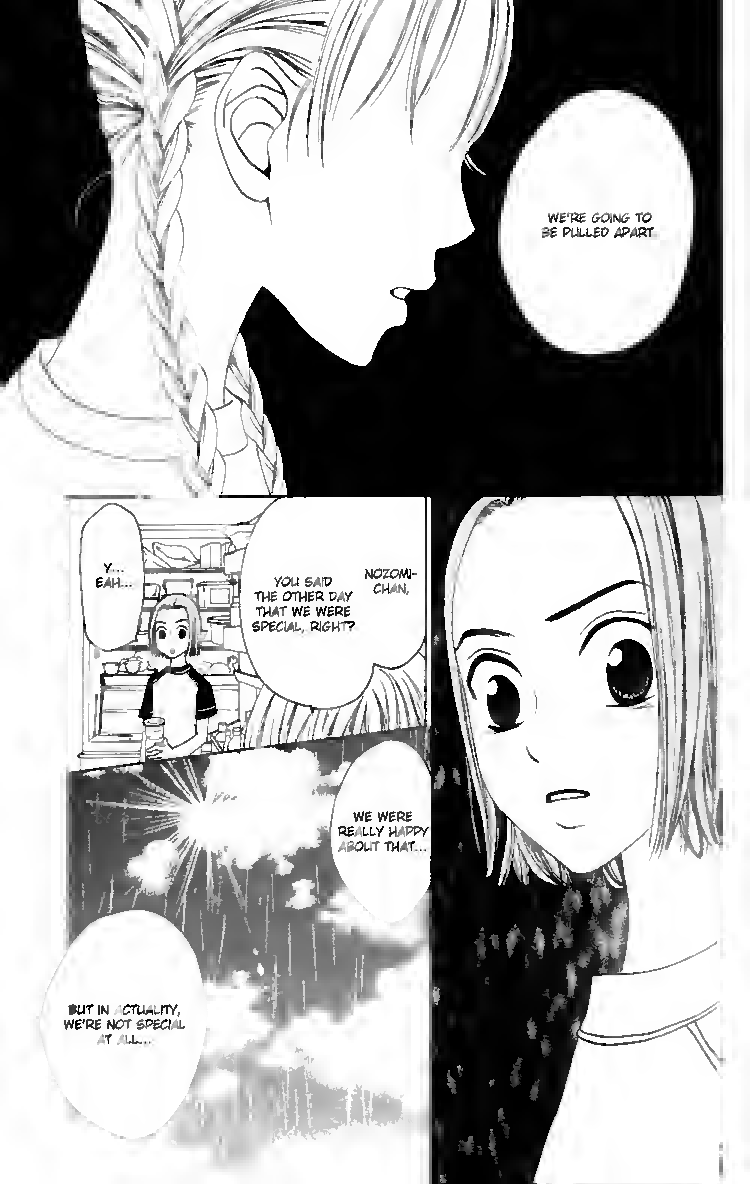

NOISE
NOISE
HUH- BUT-
DON'T LEAVE THE ONIONS!
HEY NOZOMI!
HEY
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT?
You don't want it, too late you in the hand.
GO BACK AWAY A BIT, ALL RIGHT?
OH, BESIDES THAT—I'M GOING TO USE THE OVEN.
DOES IT MATTER?
WHERE ARE YOU GUYS GOING ANYWAY?
NOISE
NOISE
PI- PI-
WE'LL BE BACK BY DUSK.
NOISE
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE GONNA QUIT SMOKING?
AH HEY DAD-
NOISE
IT'S SUCH NICE WEATHER TODAY
NOISE
IT'S ALREADY THIS LATE?
HEY
7 10
7 10
PIPU PIPU
WHAT'VE YOU GUYS BEEN DOING ANYWAY?
I'M SO BORED!
A VACATION
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH

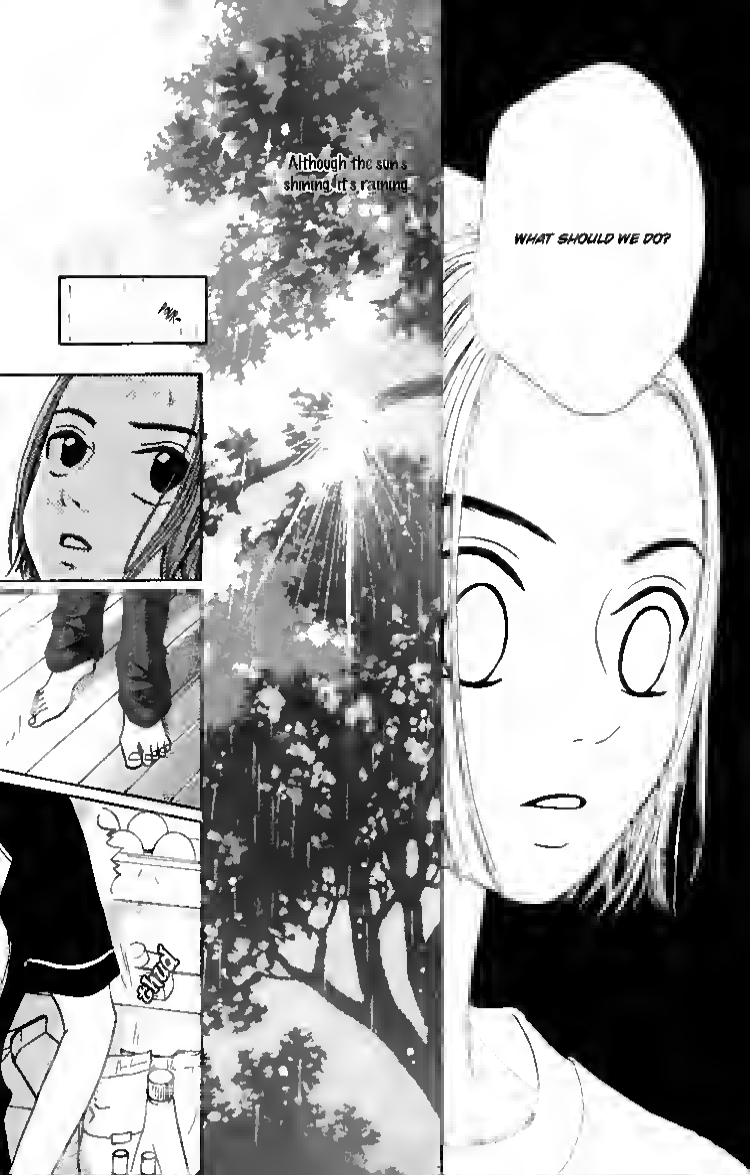



HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE HIYOKU BIRD*?
THEY'RE VERY CLOSE,
AND THEY COME TOGETHER TO FORM ONE SO THAT THEY CAN FLY
THAT ONE
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME HEARING ABOUT THAT
YOU GUYS KNOW SO MUCH

*Note: It is an imaginary bird made up of a half male and a half female bird joined together, symbolizing the close unity of husband and wife.

AH, WANT SOME OOLONG TEA?
SO YOU GUYS'VE JOINED TOGETHER AND ARE FLYING RIGHT NOW IN THE SKY?
That's nice.
WE'RE PROBABLY GOING TO BE SPLIT UP.
TODAY'S PROBABLY THE LAST DAY AT THE DIVORCE COURT
SO MOM AND DAD ARE GOING TO COME FOR US ...


WE'RE GOING TO BE PULLED APART.
NOZOMI-CHAN,
YOU SAID THE OTHER DAY THAT WE WERE SPECIAL, RIGHT?
Y... EAH...
WE WERE REALLY HAPPY ABOUT THAT...
BUT IN ACTUALITY, WE'RE NOT SPECIAL AT ALL...


Although the sun's shining, it's raining.
Hm.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
PUDDLE

AH!
SPLAT

My parents

and, as the twins had predicted, their parents, who had just come back from court,

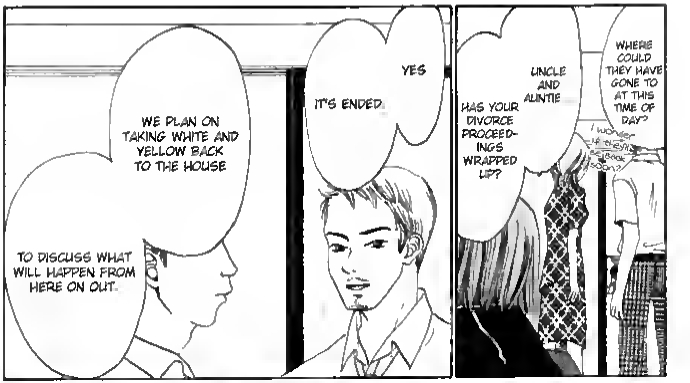
came home.

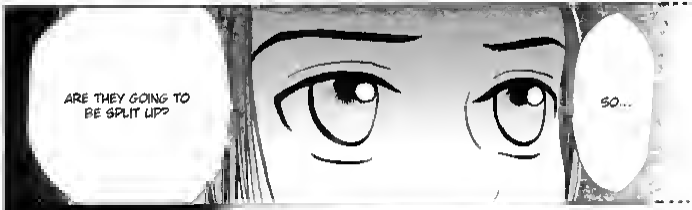
NOZOMI-CHAN?

WHERE'S YELLOW-CHAN AND WHITE-CHAN?

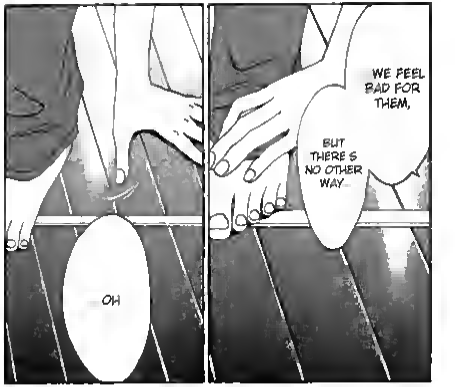
-Dusk.

—I THINK THEY WENT OUT.


YES
IT'S ENDED.
WE PLAN ON TAKING WHITE AND YELLOW BACK TO THE HOUSE
TO DISCUSS WHAT WILL HAPPEN FROM HERE ON OUT.
UNCLE AND AUNTIE
HAS YOUR DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS WRAPPED UP?
WHERE COULD THEY HAVE GONE TO AT THIS TIME OF DAY?
I WONDER



-And then, night came.



but the twins hadn't returned.
WHERE DID THEY GO OFF TO?!
NOZOMI-CHAN, ARE YOU SURE THEY DIDN'T TELL YOU ANYTHING?
NO THEY DIDN'T
OH,
THEY DID SAY SOMETHING ABOUT HAVING TO WRAP UP THEIR INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT.
INDEPEN-DENT RESEARCH PROJECT?
AN EXPER-IMENT?
THEY SAID THEY'RE GOING TO GO AND DO AN EXPERIMENT
WASN'T THERE A RESEARCH NOTEBOOK IN THEIR BACK?
"REGARDING CROUCHED BURIALS" ?
WE SHOULD TRY CALLING THE LIBRARY AND THE LOCAL ARCHIVES CENTER
IS THERE A CLASS LIST?
WE CAN TRY CALLING THEIR FRIENDS.
But their efforts were fruitless.
I'M GOING TO GO TAKE A LOOK AROUND THE NEIGH-BORHOOD
But even then, they couldn't find them.
NII-SAN
WE SHOULD TRY CONTACTING THE POLICE?
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.
I HOPE THEY DIDN'T GET INTO SOME SORT OF ACCIDENT

SINCE THIS ALL STARTED,
YOU'VE HAD THIS LOOK ON YOUR FACE LIKE THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU
You seemed so close to them...
EH...?
EH-EH?
T-THAT'S NOT TRUE...
BUT YOU'RE DEFINITELY ACTING STRANGE. IS IT?
YOU'VE BEEN SITTING IN THE SAME SPOT THIS WHOLE TIME AND YOU DON'T EVEN TRY TO GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM.
T-THAT'S BECAUSE I'M WORRIED ABOUT THEM!
REALLY?
MAYBE THE TRUTH OF THE SITUATION IS YOU KNOW SOMETHING?
REALLY, NOZOMI-CHAN?
I DON'T!
YOU *REALLY* DON'T KNOW ANYTHING?
LIKE I SAID, I DON'T KNOW.

The moment I knocked my chair over,
CRASH
AH!
I'M NOT LY-
CLATTER
DON'T LIE, NOZOMI
and that's when...
CLATTER
everyone's gazes naturally drifted to the floor.

DON'T OPEN IT!
AH...
click
AH!

"But the explanation of rebirth was what came to us intuitively. That's why we still believe it."

All they wanted was to be reborn so they wouldn't have to be separated. That's all.

The experiment was a failure...

After that, the twins, who had swallowed a large quantity of pills, were rushed to the hospital.

And I, being the one who supplied them with the pills (sleeping pills)

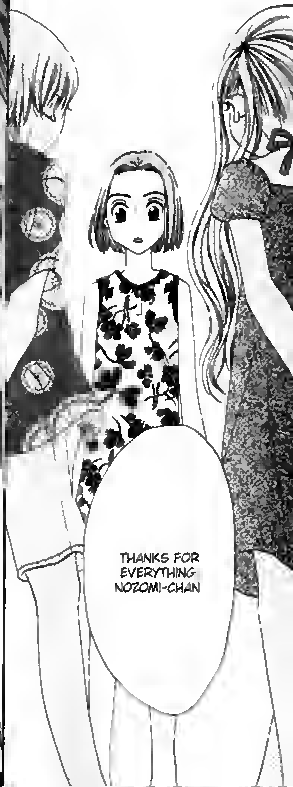
and helped them perform the experiment, was given a thorough scolding

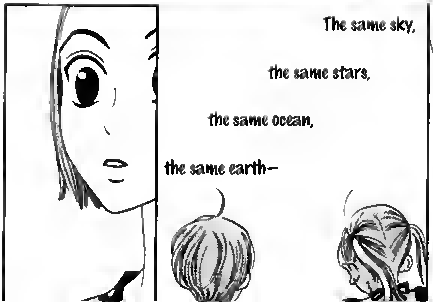
I WAS CAUGHT UP IN THEIR FEARS AND PANIC
YEAH BUT THAT TIME, I WASN'T MY NORMAL SELF
SLAP
OW!
DON'T TRY TO MAKE EXCUSES
I felt the feelings of an accomplice.
And then...
MIII-N
MIII-N
MIII-N
For now the twins are going to go back to their home.
It wasn't however a bad feeling by any means.
YEAH
SO YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO BE SPLIT UP AFTER ALL, HUH?
MIII-N
MIII-N
I DON'T KNOW.
ARE YOU GUYS GOING TO BE OKAY ?
BUT THE EXPERIMENT FAILED.

...they were so against being separated that they tried to be reborn
SO IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE WE CAN DO
I wonder if the twins' mom and dad finally understand their feelings?
...BUT, WELL...
...
HUH ?
YOU GUYS 'VE SURE BECOME A LOT MORE POSITIVE.
AND WE'LL FIND A WAY TO SEE EACH OTHER WHEN WE WANT TO
WE STILL HAVE THE POWER OF IMAGINATION---
YEAH
IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT WE'LL BE SAD TO PART.
BUT WELL...
WE'LL MAKE IT WORK SOMEHOW ...RIGHT?

"We'll do our best."

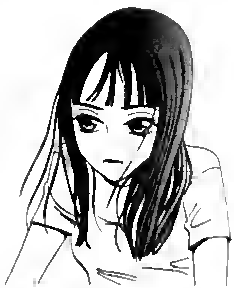
That's right.

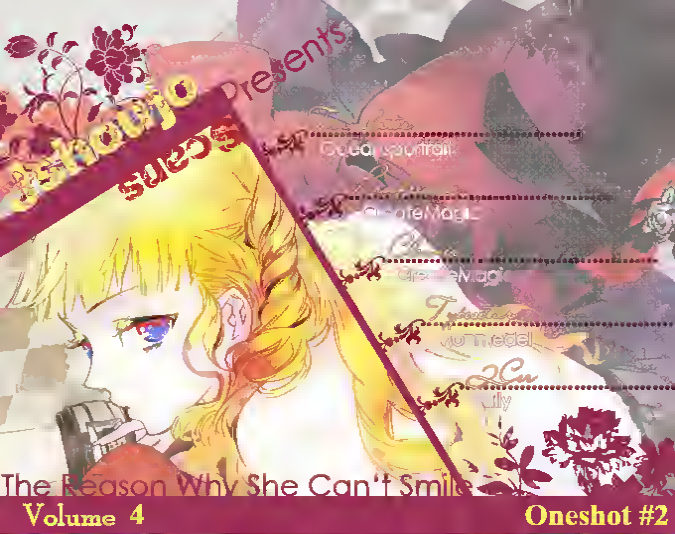




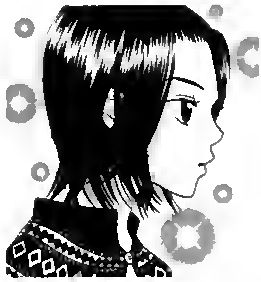
everything becomes yours.

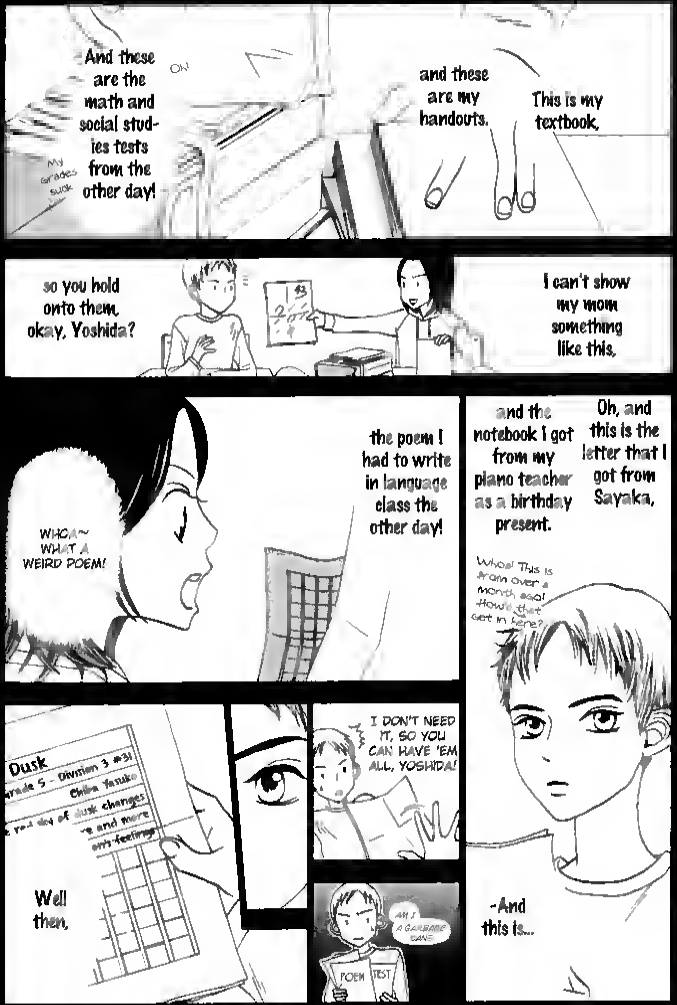
THE CHILDREN OF GREEN/END

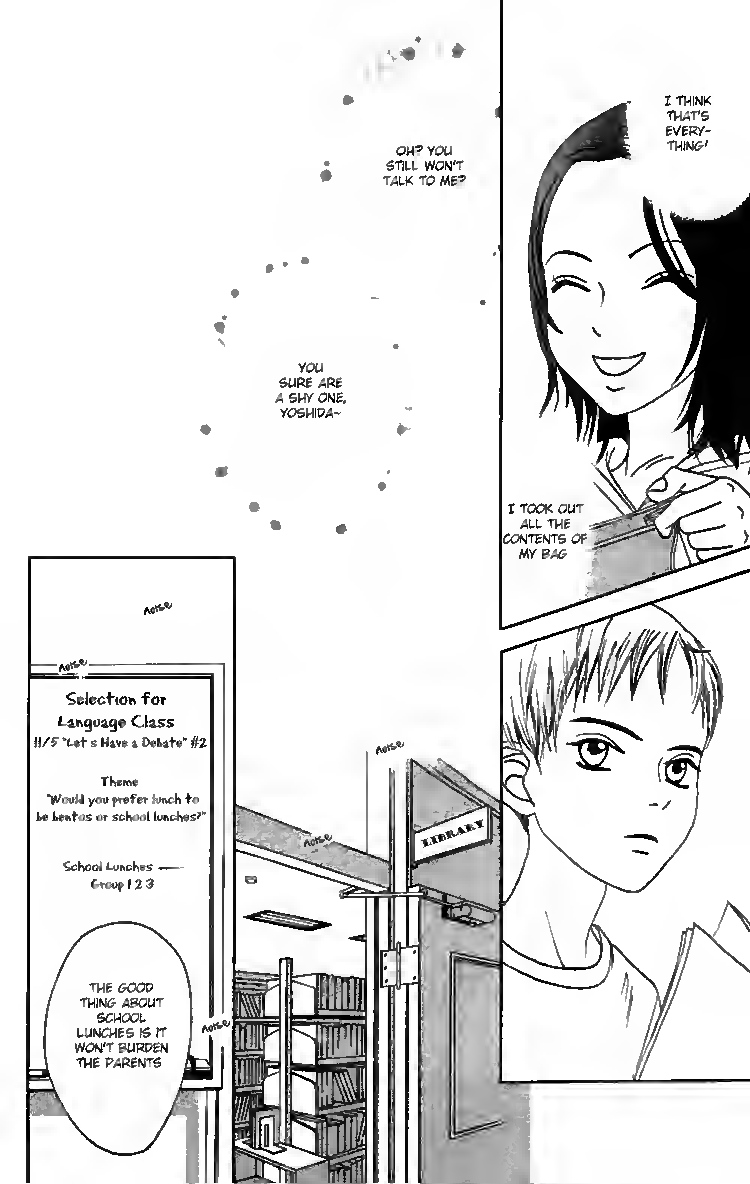


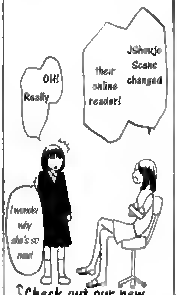

Presents
The Reason Why She Can't Smile
Volume 4
Oneshot #2

THE COLOR
OF LIES




And these are the math and social studies tests from the other day!
My grades suck
ON
and these are my handouts.
This is my textbook.
so you hold onto them, okay, Yoshida?
I can't show my mom something like this.
WHOA~ WHAT A WEIRD POEM!
the poem I had to write in language class the other day!
and the notebook I got from my piano teacher as a birthday present.
Oh, and this is the letter that I got from Sayaka.
Whoa! This is from over a month ago! How'd that get in here?
-And this is...
Dusk
Grade 5 - Division 3 #31
Chika Yasuke
Well then,
I DON'T NEED IT, SO YOU CAN HAVE 'EM ALL, YOSHIDA!
AM I A GARBAGE CAN?
POEM
TEST


OH? YOU STILL WON'T TALK TO ME?
YOU SURE ARE A SHY ONE, YOSHIDA~
I THINK THAT'S EVERY-THING!
I TOOK OUT ALL THE CONTENTS OF MY BAG
Aoise
Selection for Language Class
11/5 "Let's Have a Debate" #2
Theme
"Would you prefer lunch to be bentos or school lunches?"
School Lunches —— Group 1 2 3
THE GOOD THING ABOUT SCHOOL LUNCHES IS IT WON'T BURDEN THE PARENTS
LIBRARY



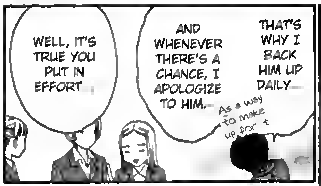
Check out our new online reader at: www.jshoujoscan.com /UberReader/reader/

Noise
Noise
Noise
ESPECIALLY IN THE CASE OF MY PARENTS WHO RUN A VEGETABLE SHOP
THEY'RE BUSY HAVING TO GET UP EARLY IN THE MORNING SO
IF WE DIDN'T HAVE SCHOOL LUNCHES, THEN-
HE'S SPOUTING TRASH AGAIN
YOUR DAD'S A NORMAL BUSINESS MAN, ISN'T HE?
What vegetable shop?!
YEAH, AND YOUR MOM'S A HOUSEWIFE!
Noise
Noise
She probably has lots of free time on her hands!
Stop lying-
Noise
STOP TALKING SMACK—

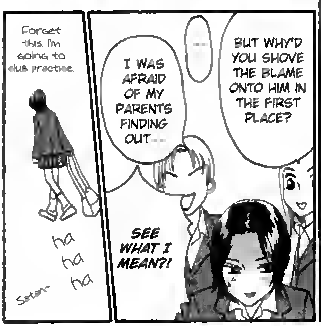
QUIET DOWN EVERY-ONE!
WE SHOULD AT LEAST HEAR HIM OUT!
CLATTER
Noise
Even though they say, "Please don't just want us to say stuff based on data—
this arau meme's off the mark.
Noise
Noise
Noise
YASUKO— I SEE YOSHIDA'S UP TO HIS OLD WAYS AGAIN.
Team— what do you think?
You won't accept that as an opinion would you?
Noise
Noise
Noise
What's the point is he's gonna lie
Noise
Noise
THERE SHE GOES AGAIN~
whispers
YOU'RE SO COOL~
WHISTLES
AND YOSHIDA IGNORES HER AS ALWAYS
OH, LOOKS LIKE TIME IS UP
di—ng
do—ng
WOW. I SEE YOSHIDA-KUN'S IGNORED YOU AS ALWAYS TODAY!
CLATTER
CLATTER
BOW—
do—ng
di—ng
STAND—
WELL THEN, WE'LL PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF NEXT TIME.

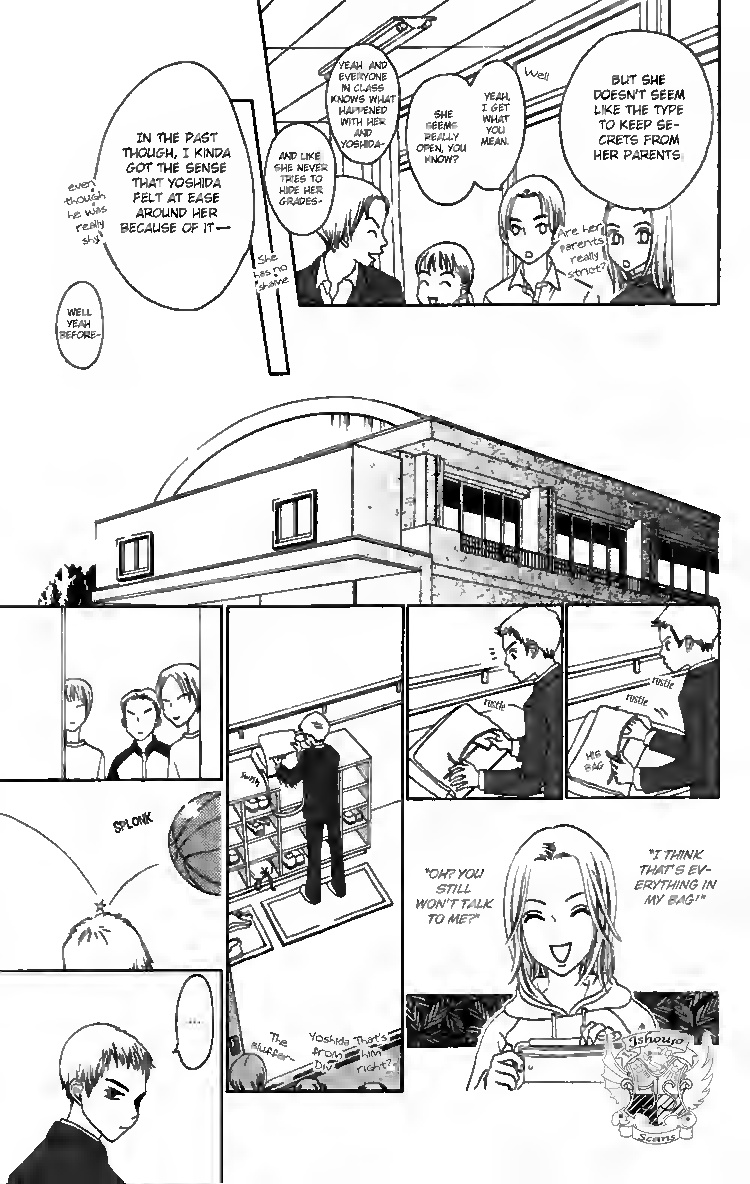
STAB
THAT HE HASN'T FORGIVEN YOU YET, CHIBA?
SO WHAT, IS THAT HIS WAY OF DECLARING
AND THAT BOASTING OF HIS HASN'T LET UP EITHER!
YEAH, SO IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE—
IT'S A NO BRAINER THAT HE'D HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST HER
WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT THANKS TO HER, HIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEARS SUCKED.
YEAH, HE REALLY DOES SEEM TO HATE HER FROM THE BOTTOM OF HIS HEART...
OH YEAH LIKE HOW YASUKO ACCIDENTALLY LET THE GOLDFISH THAT THE CLASS WAS KEEPING DIE AND SHE BLAMED IT ON YOSHIDA?
WELL, THAT'S A NO BRAINER WHY HE'D HATE HER—
ha ha ha
WAS IT "THE GOLDFISH INCIDENT"?
HOW'D THIS ALL COME ABOUT AGAIN?
How can you guys say that!
whoa!
Sorry sorry
We went over board
ha ha ha

Hayashi - The person who brought the goldfish to school The "boss" of the class
AND I HEARD HAYASHI AND THE OTHERS BEAT HIM UP
YEAH, YEAH.
YEAH, HE BECAME A WATCHMAN- CALLIT — A LONE WOLF.
Poor guy!
I HEARD THERE WAS EVEN A PERIOD OF TIME WHEN EVERYONE REFUSED TO TALK TO HIM
I HEARD HE WAS IGNORED BY THE ENTIRE CLASS UNTIL SHE GAVE HERSELF UP
YEAH, YEAH, AND THE MORE HE DENIED IT, THE MORE THE CLASS CALLED HIM A LIAR!


WELL, IT'S TRUE YOU PUT IN EFFORT.
AND WHENEVER THERE'S A CHANCE, I APOLOGIZE TO HIM.—
THAT'S WHY I BACK HIM UP DAILY—
As a way to make up for it

ha ha ha
YEAH BUT HE FOUGHT BACK BY BECOMING A LIAR THAT THEY ACCUSED HIM OF BEING!


Forget this I'm going to club practise.
Satan: ha ha ha
I WAS AFRAID OF MY PARENTS FINDING OUT—
...
BUT WHY'D YOU SHOVE THE BLAME ONTO HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE?
SEE WHAT I MEAN?!

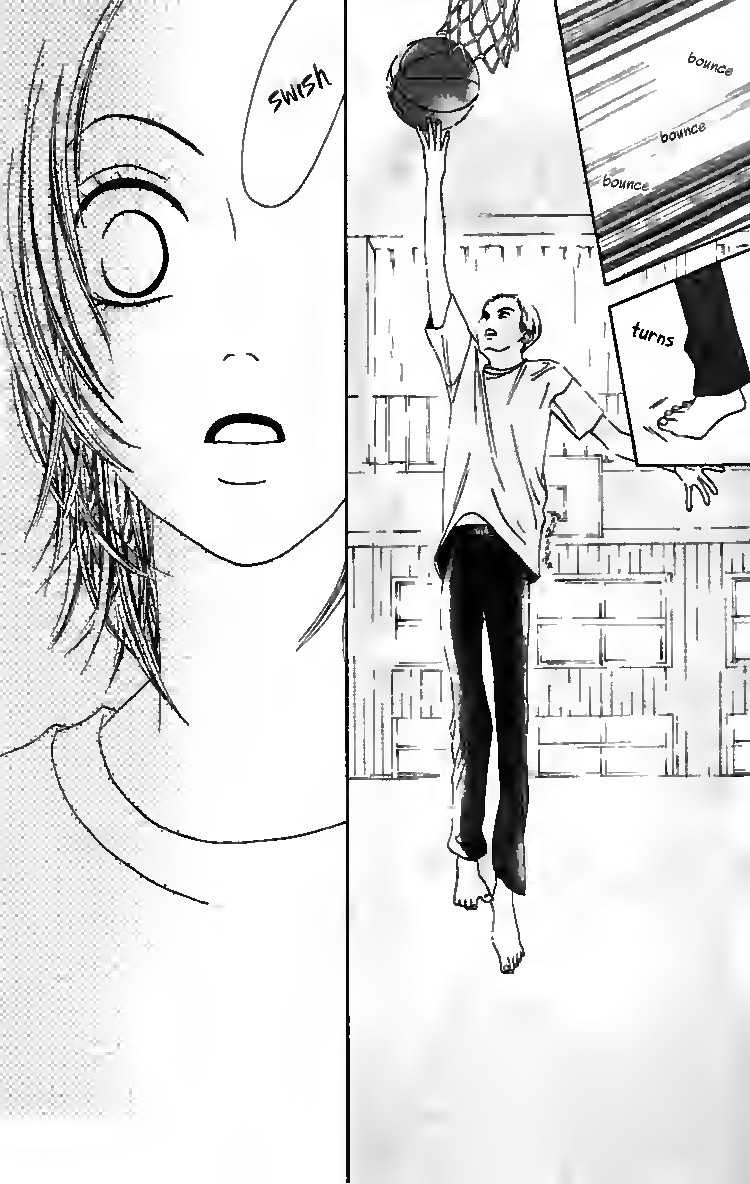

BUT SHE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE TYPE TO KEEP SECRETS FROM HER PARENTS
Well
YEAH, I GET WHAT YOU MEAN.
SHE SEEMS REALLY OPEN, YOU KNOW?
YEAH AND EVERYONE IN CLASS KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED WITH HER AND YOSHIDA-
AND LIKE SHE NEVER TRIES TO HIDE HER GRADES-
Are her parents really strict?
She has no shame
IN THE PAST THOUGH, I KINDA GOT THE SENSE THAT YOSHIDA FELT AT EASE AROUND HER BECAUSE OF IT—
even though he was really shy
WELL YEAH BEFORE-
rustle
rustle
MY BAG
SPLONK
"OH? YOU STILL WON'T TALK TO ME?"
"I THINK THAT'S EVERYTHING IN MY BAG!"
The slurper-
Yoshida That's from Dai, right?
...
Yoshiya
Scans

Volleyball Club Outis
...
"I'M REALLY SORRY!"
"YOSHIDA!"
"IT'S ALL MY FAULT!"
"OTHERWISE, YOU'RE GOING TO END UP STICKING OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB AGAIN EVEN THOUGH THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS HAVE BEEN CLEARED UP..."
"SO... YOU SHOULD STOP WITH YOUR LIES TOO."
"THE ONE WHO LIED FIRST WAS YOU."
"..."
"WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT MY LIES?"
SIGH~
I HONESTLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT ELSE I CAN DO TO GET HIM TO FORGIVE ME...
Yasuko you seem down~
click
...

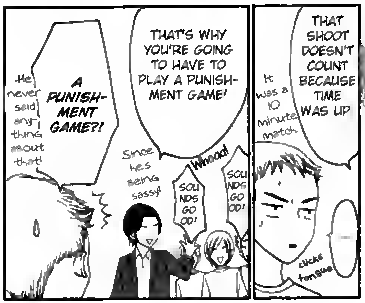
Well, even if he does stick out in class, he's not the type to be picked on, so at least I don't have to worry in that respect..
BUT STILL, I NEED TO TALK TO HIM STRAIGHT UP ONE OF THESE DAYS.
Huh?
WH AT?
WHAT IS GOING ON?
THUD
Whoaa!
!!
SWISH
OH!
SO WHAT? YOU'RE ALL TALK AND NO WALK?
YOU KING OF BLUFF-ERS!

YOSHI-DA?!
What is he doing?
A MATCH AGAINST A GUY ON THE BASKETBALL TEAM
A one-on-one match
I GUESS HE HATES LOSING.
IT TOOK THIS KIND OF TURN FROM JUST THAT MINOR SPAT
NII-CHAN!
OH, CHIBA-SENPAI!
You guys sure do look alike, as always
I thought you'd already quit the team?
I just dropped in to see how they were doing.
THAT'S THE INFAMOUS YOSHIDA, ISN'T HE?
The one that you told me before you know the liar
Y-YEAH...
JUST NOW, HE DECLARED THAT HE'S A "PRO" WHEN IT COMES TO BASKETBALL
TALK ABOUT BLUFFING!
HE'S GOT GUTS, I'LL GIVE HIM THAT
HE'S A COMPLETE AMATEUR THOUGH
He's no match for him
BUT...

although he still wasn't very good at it,
—Little by little,
I could sense Yoshida was catching up to him.
SLAP
OH?
HIS MOVE-MENTS AREN'T BAD
HE STILL HASN'T TOUCHED THE BALL THOUGH


SWISH
bounce
bounce
bounce
turns

had a talent of turning his bluff into a reality
pant
pant
He really scared
noise...
bounce
bounce
-Yoshida
pant
pant
WHISTLE
That's why no matter how many lies he spouted, everyone came to silently approve him.
He has the power to justify his lies.
and infinite—
It's scary—


He never said anything about that!
A PUNISH-MENT GAME?!
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PLAY A PUNISH-MENT GAME!
Since he's being sassy!
Whoa!
SOUNDS GOOD!
SOUNDS GOOD!
It was a 10 minute match
THAT SHOOT DOESN'T COUNT BECAUSE TIME WAS UP
click

—and I can't help but be drawn in.

CAN I DECIDE?
YEAH!
YEAH!
What are you saying?
PLEASE FEEL FREE!
THERE'S A PENALTY FOR THE LOSER!
IT'S A NO BRAINER!
YASUKO, THIS IS THANKS TO YOUR BROTHER'S KINDNESS
NO WAY!
Why?!
So take it
T-
THANKS...
Nii-chan
WH..!
YOU GO HOME WITH YASUKO TODAY
I'VE HEARD WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU GUYS,
BUT YOU REALLY SHOULD LISTEN TO WHAT SHE HAS TO SAY ONE OF THESE DAYS
DON'T TOUCH MY STUFF WITHOUT ASKING!
Here's your stuff
Whoa!
Scary
What a high strung dude.
WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THAT ?

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY THAT I HAVE TO HEAR YOU OUT ON?!
ERR...
IT'S NOT THAT REALLY BIG OF A DEAL...
What a scary look.
BUT I DO WANT TO ASK WHAT IT IS THAT I CAN DO TO GET YOU TO FORGIVE ME.
By now.
"FOR-GIVE"?
YEAH.
WHAT CAN I DO?
HEY. LOOK
THE SKY'S BRIGHT RED
sky

THE SKY WAS BRIGHT RED,
IT WAS THE PERFECT DAY FOR A BRIGHT RED LIE
ON THAT DAY, THE SUNSET LOOKED AS IMPRESSIVE AS TODAY'S
I'LL
FORGIVE YOU,
SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
Pat
Pat

LIAR!
YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF FORGIVING ME IN THE SLIGHTEST, ARE YOU?!
PULLS
DON'T TOUCH
I'M SERIOUS WHEN I ASKED YOU...
"I THINK THAT'S EVERYTHING"
...SO WHY?!
MY BAG!

I WON'T REVEAL MY TRUE INTENTIONS TO YOU
I can't see a thing.
What's running through his mind?
I don't understand him.
AND I WON'T SHOW A SINGLE THING TO YOU.
I'LL HIDE EVERYTHING.
I'LL NEVER TELL YOU THE TRUTH

splash
splash
LIVE SPE
CHIBA
PLANNE
Please don't use the taps! It's clogged.
GEEZ ZZ...

PLOP
I FEEL KIND OF LIGHT-HEADED...
splash
splash
splash
splash
splash
I WISH I COULD GO HOME ALREADY...
splash
splash
splash
...!
!!
The real living creatures in the white toilet bowl.
...
OH NO... WHAT SHOULD I DO?

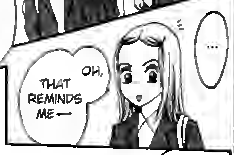
That day, my anemia was to blame.
splash
FLUSSHHHHH
splash
splash
splash
DASHES
pitter patter

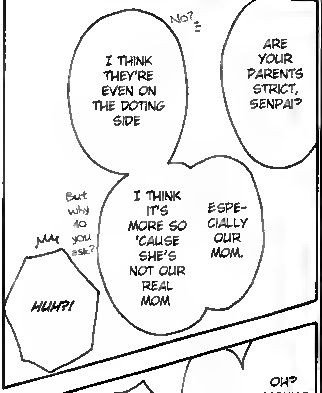
I'M NOT GOING TO LET ANYONE LEAVE THIS CLASS UNTIL WE FIND OUT WHERE THE GOLD-FISH DISAPPEARED OFF TO!
....
Suspi-cious gaze
...MY PAR-ENTS?!
FIRST THE TEACHER'LL GET MAD AT ME,...AND SHE'LL INTERROGATE ME AS TO WHY I DID IT, AND EVERYONE WILL LOOK AT ME IN DISGUST. SHE MIGHT EVEN REPORT IT TO MY PARENTS...
...WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IF THEY FIND OUT IT'S ME?
Still, there's no way that it was okay for me to shove my sins onto him
Teacher! I found out the person who did it!
In that flash moment I thought Yoshida might under-stand
Please, not my mom...!
I-I don't want my mom to find out...at all costs!

...So it's a no-brainer that I'd be punished for it.
BUT...
EVEN AFTER ALL THAT'S HAP-PENED...
I WISH YOU COULD'VE SHOWN YOUR TRUE SELF TO ME
IT'S NO SUR-PRISE THAT YOU'D WANT TO FIND OUT ABOUT SOMEONE YOU LIKE...
'CAUSE, LIKE...

PLUS I WAS ABLE TO SHOW YOU THE THINGS
THAT I COULD NEVER SHOW MY MOM...
THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT A DAY WOULD COME WHEN YOU'D UNDERSTAND
dashes
BUT I GUESS IT'S NO USE HOPING FOR THAT ANYMORE

WE SAW YOU EARLIER.
At the gym
IT'D BE GREAT IF THINGS GO WELL WITH YASUKO AND YOSHIDA.
YEAH
Oh, so you saw it?
YEAH NO KIDDING

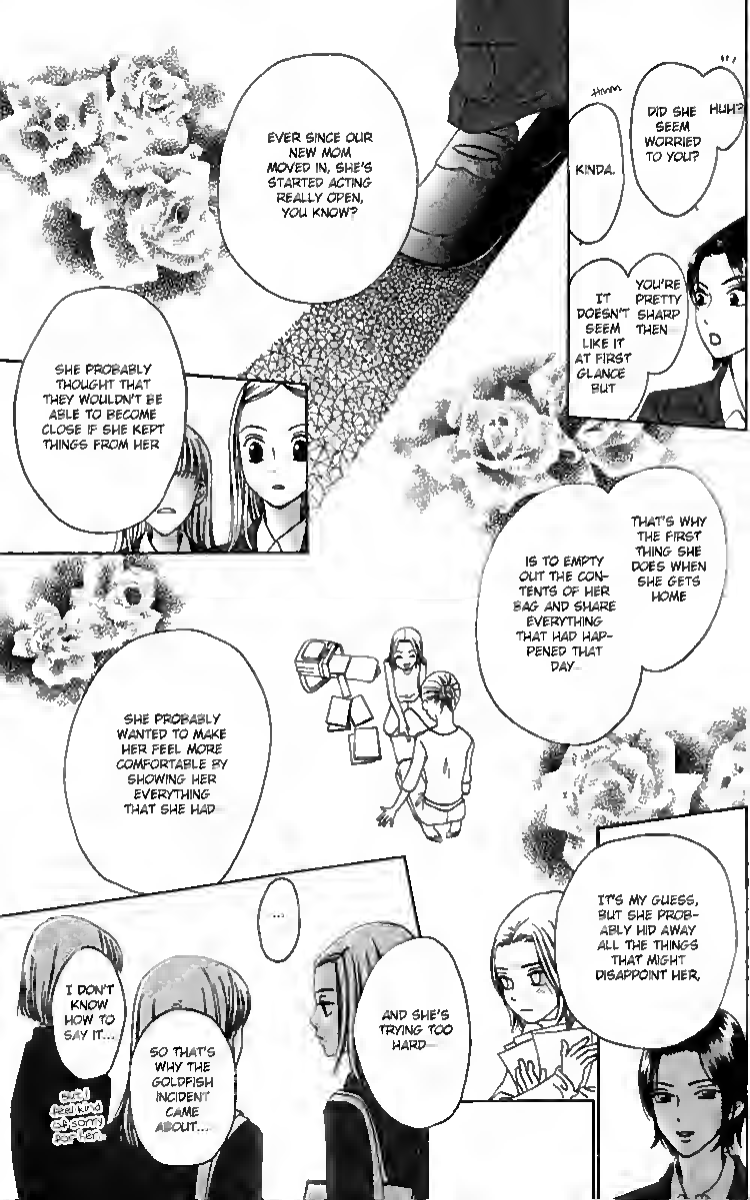

...
!!!
OH, THAT REMINDS ME—


ARE YOUR PARENTS STRICT, SENPAI?
No?
I THINK THEY'RE EVEN ON THE DOTING SIDE
ESPECIALLY OUR MOM.
I THINK IT'S MORE SO 'CAUSE SHE'S NOT OUR REAL MOM
But why do you ask?
HUH?!

OH? YASUKO DIDN'T TELL YOU?
OUR DAD REMARRIED—
THAT'S MY FIRST TIME HEARING THAT!
I had no idea!
Our mom died early on
SO IS THAT WHAT YASUKO'S WORRIED ABOUT?

SQUEEZE

CHIBA-SENPAI~
CAN WE GO HOME WITH YOU?
HEY! SURE
YAY!


EVER SINCE OUR NEW MOM MOVED IN, SHE'S STARTED ACTING REALLY OPEN, YOU KNOW?
SHE PROBABLY THOUGHT THAT THEY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BECOME CLOSE IF SHE KEPT THINGS FROM HER
Hmm.
KINDA.
DID SHE SEEM WORRIED TO YOU?
HUH?
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT AT FIRST GLANCE BUT
YOU'RE PRETTY SHARP THEN
THAT'S WHY THE FIRST THING SHE DOES WHEN SHE GETS HOME
IS TO EMPTY OUT THE CONTENTS OF HER BAG AND SHARE EVERYTHING THAT HAD HAPPENED THAT DAY
SHE PROBABLY WANTED TO MAKE HER FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE BY SHOWING HER EVERYTHING THAT SHE HAD
IT'S MY GUESS, BUT SHE PROBABLY HID AWAY ALL THE THINGS THAT MIGHT DISAPPOINT HER.
...
AND SHE'S TRYING TOO HARD
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT...
SO THAT'S WHY THE GOLDFISH INCIDENT CAME ABOUT...
Huh? I'm kinda sorry for her.

BUT MAYBE HER SHOWING HERSELF TO OTHERS, CAME ABOUT FROM HER WISH FOR OTHERS NOT TO KEEP SECRETS FROM HER?
YEAH...
I DIDN'T REALIZE IT BEFORE...
BUT I REALLY FELT AT EASE AT THE FACT SHE OPENED HERSELF UP TO ME
ME TOO.
I THINK THOUGH,
"I DON'T NEED IT."
"SO YOU CAN HAVE 'EM ALL YOSHIDA!"
THAT WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO THINK THAT.
rustle

HE LET HIS GUARD DOWN AROUND HER, SO HE PROBABLY FINDS IT ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT TO FORGIVE HER AFTER WHAT SHE DID
BUT HE DOES SEEM TO BE PRETTY PRIDEFUL, YOU KNOW?
YEAH I GUESS
Maybe then he'll finally find it in his heart to forgive her
LET'S JUST HOPE YOU-KNOW-WHO CATCHES ONTO HER WAY OF THINKING SOON ENOUGH
WELL THEN,
It's all pretty complicated
YEAH— YEAH—
DUSK
Grade 5 - Division 3 #31
Chiba Yasuko
The red sky of dusk changes its color more and more
BUT, WELL,
PEOPLE'S FEELINGS

AREN'T SOMETHING THAT STAYS THE SAME FOR LIFE
"IT'S SIMILAR TO A PERSON'S FEELINGS"
"DUSK"
"THE RED SKY OF DUSK CHANGES ITS COLOR MORE AND MORE."
I'M SURE THEY'LL BE ABLE TO FIGURE IT OUT SOON ENOUGH

Would you like a cough drop?

Kanmatsu Ameko 14 Years Old

—Switching to the Postscript—

I HAVE AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX WHEN IT COMES TO THE FACT I'M NOT GIRLY

THIS BEING DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE SEMPAI THAT I CARED ABOUT SO MUCH WAS INTO "GIRLY" GIRLS.

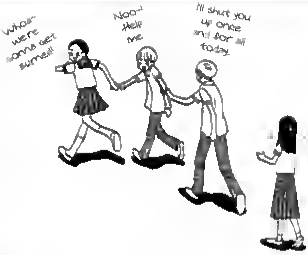
A HA HA HA
ARE YOU FREAKIN' SERIOUS?!
YEAH, FOR REAL!
WE SAW 'EM WALKING TOGETHER SO ALL THE GUYS FROM THE TRACK AND FIELD CLUB WHISTLED AT THEM.
THAT'S WHEN EIJI SNAPPED FOR REAL!
Wait! He is pretty short, though — I remember!
a-ha-ha-ha
AND FUSEYA WAS PANICKING BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
a ha ha
SO IS IT TRUE THAT THEY'RE DATING?
YEAH THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!
WHAT ABOUT THE RUMOUR THAT FUSEYA'S GOT A HORROR OF A MOM?
I heard she's the complete opposite of her
ha ha ha
THAT'S TRUE TOO
BUT I HEARD HER OLDER SISTER'S SUPPORTIVE OF THEM SO
WILL YOU GUYS PIPE IT DOWN?
WOULD YOU JUST QUIET DOWN ALREADY?
...
YOU'VE BEEN GOING ON AND ON ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE'S LOVE GOSSIP— I CAN'T CONCENTRATE!
FREE BLOCK
The mid-terms are coming soon
ESPECIALLY YOU, HIROO! YOUR VOICE!

There's nothing wrong with Hiroo's voice!
YOU'RE STARTING TO PISS ME OFF.
THIS IS EXACTLY WHY YOU GOT SHOT DOWN!
Talk about being a killjoy.
WILL YOU JUST SHUT UP KANMETSU AMEKO?
IT'S LIKE NAILS DOWN A CHALKBOA...
YOUR VOICE IS WAY TOO HIGH!
YOUR LAUGH GIVES ME A MIGRAINE!
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE PISSED ABOUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD TAKE IT OUT ON HIROO.
IS IT BECAUSE HIROO'S CUTE?
WHAT! NO WAY!
I HEARD SOMEONE SAY THAT THAT SENPAI LOOKED AT HIROO IN HIS NORMAL CLOTHES AND SAID HE'S "TOTALLY HIS TYPE"
He thought Hiroo was a girl.
OH YEAH. NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT-
SHE MADE A LOVE CONFESSION TO A SENPAI ON THE TRACK AND FIELD TEAM, BUT HE SHOT HER DOWN
YOU DON'T KNOW?
He told her she wasn't his type
POOR KANMATSU. THE REASON WHY YOU WERE GROWING OUT YOUR HAIR WAS BECAUSE OF HIM, WASN'T IT?
TALK ABOUT A WASTE OF TIME!
To become more girly
OH? WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?
OH, THAT'S WHY HEARING ABOUT PEOPLE'S LOVE TALK GETS ON HER NERVES

Yo
Good morning, sensei!
With that long hair
I'm into girls that are girly, you know?
I feel flattered though
Sorry, but you're not my type
SO WHAT DOES THAT MEAN THAT EVEN THOUGH KANMATSU'S A GIRL SHE'S BELOW HIROO?!
a ha ha ha
NOISE
Yoo-i
Morning!
NOISE
Morning!

'MORNING!
WHOA-! HIROO ACTUALLY LOOKS LIKE A GUY NOW!
rattle
I WISH I COULD GROW MY HAIR OUT...
NOISE
You look so cute!
It's shorter!
YOU SURPRISED US!
It suits you!
But I can't say that it's not a bit of a shame.
I WANTED TO DO IT TO SWITCH THINGS UP!
WHAT GOT INTO YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN?
YOU SAID THAT IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND YOU SHOWED UP THE NEXT DAY WITH AN AFRO!
WHAT! FOR REAL?!
THAT'S SO LIKE YOU, HIROO!
WE CAN NEVER READ WHAT YOU'RE GONNA DO NEXT..!
HA HA HA
HA HA HA

GOOD
MORNING



I WAS TURNED DOWN BY SENPAI.

BUT I'VE STARTED TO FEEL LIKE
I'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP GOING
WITH A SMILE TODAY

thanks to

- M. Sakamoto
- N. Mizuki
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- R. Yokoi
- R. Kokiai
- T. Higuchi
- A. Okabe
- Y. Sakai
- M. Nakazima

- My family
- Mr. Ando
- Hoen-Kikaku

and you

Thank you very
much for reading

Machiyuki Kaori '99.12.27

Would you like a cough drop?/THE END